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## How to Pour Solid Beeswax Candles in Molds

**NEVER leave a burning candle or HOT WAX unattended or alone with children!**

### Some Basics:

- Although beeswax is a soft, sticky wax, beeswax actually has a **(high) melting point of 145 degrees F**. For this reason, I have never had luck with plastic molds--if the wax is too hot, which is easy to do, the plastic mold warps as the wax is poured into it.
- Beeswax shrinks very little as it cools. Although my beeswax candles often come out of the molds easily enough on their own, I sometimes use a mold release, such as peanut oil, in many of my metal molds. I apply a **light, thin coat** of oil to the inside of the mold by dabbing oil on a piece of paper towel and wiping the towel around the mold. I only do this if I am having trouble extricating a candle from its mold. Most of the time, I use no mold release and, if I am having trouble removing the candle, will place the candle in the refrigerator for a little while to help the wax out of the mold. However, try not to rush the cooling process too much or you will end up with some odd and ugly crack marks on the sides of your beeswax candles.
- Use a double boiler to melt beeswax--instead of burning it directly in a pot on the stove. (A double boiler is a pot within a pot, the bottom one of which contains water. As the water boils, it heats the contents of the pan above it.) Excessive burning of beeswax may discolor the wax and breakdown the chemical makeup of the beeswax.
- Dedicate your tools to your wax projects. Yes, you can clean off wax from metal appliances and silverware, however, it is a lot of work and not worth the effort if you will spend a lot of time working with wax. Whether I am [sculpting with waxes](#) or making candles, I have learned 1) not to use household tools that I want to keep in the kitchen and 2) to work in an area that can be made somewhat wax-proof or at least wax-resistant (you will ultimately get wax everywhere in your work area). Specifically, I bought a portable electric burner (the kind you can buy for college dorm rooms) as my heat source.

My husband John is very forgiving and a real gem, but he still was not amused by what I did to our oven when I was starting out. (As much as I love beeswax, smelling it burning at about 350 degrees in a preheating oven kind of ruins your dinner plans!) Same goes for butter knives (for scraping the sides of the wax pan), tongs, and measuring spoons (for fragrances). A lot of these extra kitchen items can be found in junk stores or Goodwill or Salvation Army thrift stores pretty inexpensively.

- Metals such as iron, copper, brass, and zinc will discolor beeswax if they come in contact with it. So use stainless steel or aluminum pots and molds.
- Beeswax requires different wick than petroleum-based wax (paraffin) candles. Beeswax burns best with a square-braided 100% cotton wick and a thicker wick than the same size paraffin candle. Use the guidelines provided by suppliers of wick (such as [Lumina Candles](#)) and then experiment on your own to see what combinations gives you the best burn times and qualities for the sizes and shapes of the candles you are making.

### Metal Molds

Most of your metal molds will basically be a container that is open on the top and contains a small hole in the center of the bottom to thread the wick into. The bottom of the mold is actually where the top of the candle will be. You will be pouring in from the bottom,



## Supply List

- Portable Electric Burner (not gas!)
- Aluminum Double Boiler (or equivalent--see text)
- Candy Thermometer
- **BEESWAX**
- Square-braided 100% Cotton Wick
- Metal Molds
- Mold Release
- Butter knife or other metal stirring rod
- Newspaper (keeps table tops clean)
- Cardboard (to protect walls)
- Notebook & Pencil (to record candle making details such as temperature poured and timing)
- Optional: Scents and Coloring Dyes
- If use additives above, you'll need measuring spoons

**Please Note:** Beeswax candles do NOT require any additives (such as stearic acid) that are typically used in paraffin candles. Paraffin is an inferior-quality wax, so it is only added to beeswax as a way to reduce the cost of the candle. But paraffin does NOTHING to enhance a beeswax candle. Usually beeswax is added to paraffin to increase the burn time of paraffin candles.

which helps to create a prettier candle. Follow the instructions given by the mold manufacturer. Click [here](#) for Lumina's instructions on how to pour votive candles in Lumina's metal molds.

Most serious candle makers use a thermometer and keep records of wax temperatures prior to pouring. That way they can repeat (or not!) results and make consistently good candles. Yes, I should do this, but I tend to like to "wing-it"--I don't know why. I am also paranoid that I will burn my house down, since I have a tendency to try to do several things at once and occasionally forget things such as wax melting in my studio while I am folding laundry in another room. So instead, I stay right by the portable stove and while the beeswax is melting, I am preparing molds and stuff. (Most mold manufacturers will include directions for how to use the mold and thread the wick.) I test whether all the wax has melted by stirring it with one of those butter knives that won't ever make it back to the kitchen, looking for lumps. Once it has thoroughly melted (and not long after that), I pour. [My beeswax is probably just slightly higher than the melting point--it takes me a long time to get it melted, and it cools rather quickly. I like this setting and never change the dial on the burner.]

## Scents

If I am [adding an essential oil or other fragrance](#), I measure out some liquid scent and add it to the wax just before pouring, stirring thoroughly. The best I can tell you is to experiment to determine the best ratio of scent to wax. I have found that with essential oils, I don't need a whole lot for a lovely scent because essential oils are strong. I also discovered that too much oil changes how the candle sets up/cooling and affects (for the worse) the burn time. **It is important to add the scent at the very last minute!** Otherwise, you will simply cook out the fragrance, causing it to evaporate, scenting the room, not the candle. [This is not a bad thing to try if you are trying to hide the fact that you accidentally dripped some beeswax onto the electric burner and your whole room smells of something burning! ;) ] I tend to use about 1-1.5 tablespoons of oil to 2 pounds of beeswax as my starting point.

After I pour, I take something soft (wadded paper towel or cloth mitt) to *lightly* tap the sides of the mold to cause any air bubbles to the surface and out of my candle. I used to use my trusty butter knife, but discovered that aluminum metal molds are soft and I was leaving these not-so-attractive tiny dashes/dents in the sides of my molds, which showed up on the candles! D'oh!

As the beeswax cools, it will shrink. You may need to top it off as you see places inside the candle that have become holes. I tend to top off often because if I let the wax cool too much between refills, my candle looks messy on the bottom. Experiment with this and see what works for you. You may find you can go do something else for about 10-20 minutes and then come back to top off, but I usually forget the candle, so . . . Just make sure that you do not wait so long to top off that the beeswax has cooled so much that it has pulled away from the sides of the mold. If you pour anymore wax after that point, you risk liquid wax flowing into this gap between the outer edge of the candle and the inside of the mold. This will mess up the look of your candle and possibly make it difficult to remove the candle from the mold.

## About Lumina's Candle-making Supplies

[How to Pour Votive Candles](#) // [More Candle Making Tips](#)

**NEVER leave a burning candle (or candle in progress) unattended or alone with children!**

Your local hobby or craft store should have more molds to offer (or check the Web sites on my [links page](#)). Also, molds can be found in everyday objects. One friend of mine makes his candles in glasses (tapered so that you can remove the candle once it has cooled) and even throwaway molds, such as the plastic bottles used to contain sugar water (aka sodas, soda pop, soft drinks, cokes). The shapes have undercuts which do not allow you to simply pull the candle from the mold. Hence using the *plastic* bottles--just peel away, destroying the candle mold. (Americans drink so much sugar water, though, that he never lacks molds!)

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[Candle Business Tips](#) // [Sample Flyer](#): Teach a class in candle making and earn extra income!

## Site Map

[Links to more Beeswax and Candle-making Information and Ideas \(Links\)](#)

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## Order Candle-making Supplies

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***Lumina Candles***  
***Gary Hickinbotham & Laurie Jasinski***  
***P. O. Box 310308***  
***New Braunfels, Texas (USA) 78131-0308***  
***[New Braunfels is between Austin and San Antonio, Texas.]***  
***(830) 627-8827***  
***www.luminacandles.com***  
***lumina@luminacandles.com***

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