

Beeswax & Candle Making

Process hive wax into usable blocks and simple candles

DIFFICULTY

Easy

TYPE

Seasonal batch technique

TIME

2–3 hours per batch



DIFFICULTY

Easy



TIME

2–3 hrs



COST

Low



BEST SEASON

After honey harvest



FREQUENCY

Once or twice a year

01 Melt, filter, pour

Raw beeswax from cappings and old comb needs melting and filtering to remove propolis, pollen, and debris before it's usable for candles or other projects — always melted gently, as wax is flammable at high heat.



02 What you'll need

- Raw wax (cappings from honey harvest, or old comb)
- A double-boiler setup (never melt wax directly over a flame)
- A fine filter (cheesecloth or a paint strainer bag)
- Candle wicks and moulds if making candles

03 Method

1. Collect raw wax from cappings or old comb.
2. Melt gently using a double-boiler method — wax is flammable and shouldn't be heated directly over an open flame.
3. Filter the melted wax through cheesecloth or a fine strainer to remove debris.
4. Pour into moulds for blocks, or directly into candle moulds with a wick secured in place.
5. Let cool slowly and completely before removing from moulds.

04 Troubleshooting

- **Wax has debris even after filtering** — filter through a finer material, or repeat filtering for very dirty raw wax.
- **Candle burns unevenly or tunnels** — usually wick size mismatched to candle diameter; use a wick sized appropriately for your mould width.
- **Wax overheats or scorches** — always use a double-boiler method, never direct heat, and monitor temperature.
- **Cracking when cooling** — cooling too fast, often from a cold mould or draft; let candles cool slowly at room temperature.

05 Timing & maintenance

BEST TIME	After honey harvest, when cappings and burr comb are naturally available.
DURATION	2–3 hours per batch, mostly gentle melting and filtering time.
MAINTENANCE	None beyond correct storage of finished wax blocks or candles.
SIGNS OF SUCCESS	Clean, golden, debris-free wax, and candles that burn evenly without tunnelling or excessive smoking.

06 Tips & variations

PAIRS WELL WITH

Honeybees (animal guide)

COMMON MISTAKES

Melting wax directly over a flame rather than using a double boiler

Using the wrong wick size for the candle diameter, causing poor burning

PRO TIP

Beeswax is useful well beyond candles — wood conditioning, wrap coating, and simple balms are all straightforward beginner projects using the same basic melted, filtered wax.