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Cool Soapmaking: The Smart And Simple Guide To Low-Temp Tricks For Making Soap With Milk, Citrus, Cucumber, Pine Tar, Beer, Wine, And Other Special Ingredients



Synopsis

SPECIAL NOTE! -- ANNE WILL PERSONALLY ANSWER ANY QUESTION OF YOURS AFTER READING THIS BOOK. ASK ON HER WEB SITE, AND YOU'LL NORMALLY HEAR BACK WITHIN HOURS!

Soapmakers may love to add a variety of materials to soap, but they find that some cause more trouble than others. In the heat of the chemical reaction, an ingredient might discolor, or lose its scent, or develop a bad smell. Or it might cause problems during soapmaking, giving off noxious fumes, or making the soap harden so fast that there's no time to pour it in the mold.

Help has arrived.

Anne L. Watson extends the low-temp techniques from her book "Milk Soapmaking" to making soap from a variety of special ingredients, including cucumber, citrus, pine tar, beer, and wine. Soaps that have long challenged home soapmakers will now pose no problem at all.

Anne L. Watson is the author of the wildly popular and widely acclaimed beginners book "Smart Soapmaking" and its companions, "Milk Soapmaking" and "Smart Lotionmaking." She has made soap professionally under the company name Soap Tree, and before her retirement was a historic preservation architecture consultant. Anne's other published books include "Baking with Cookie Molds" and several novels. Anne, her husband, Aaron, and their cat, Skeeter, live in Friday Harbor, Washington.

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed using this book, plus I had read Anne Watson's webpage where she wrote out most of the soap recipes and experiments. Every month there was a different focus and for someone like me (just starting out) Anne's recipes inspired me to create and have fun and try different things. So, I really appreciated that. I found that if Anne had trouble or slight difficulty with a soap, then so did I. This restricted the recipes I chose to the ones she had the most success with and had easy to find and buy ingredients. I first attempted her orange and yogurt soap, but instead of orange, I juiced fresh mandarins from the tree in my backyard (including the peel), and the same for the grapefruit. There were some things that I regretted not knowing before starting the recipes. One of them was that if you work with yogurt, some of the milk solids might go hard and look like undissolved lye. There are ways to test for that, but it was disheartening to see it in my soap. Immediately after that, I bought a fine mesh stainless steel strainer and haven't had a problem since . . . which is good, because I love working with yogurt, cow's milk, goat's milk, and almond milk. I found that with the beer soap, there was a lot of ash and a slightly darker circle in the middle of the loaf, just like Anne had pictured on her webpage. After six weeks, the ash is totally gone and you can't see a darker ring at all in the middle. Another issue I had was with the cucumber soap. I made a 50/50 % mix of juiced cucumber and Greek yogurt, but as Anne warned the cucumber tends to burn. It went blackish brown. I had to add lemongrass essential oil to get rid of the ammonia smell and titanium dioxide to lighten the colour a bit.

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