Candle Making Presentation
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Wilson County Beekeepers Association

By

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Caution – A burning candle can emit small amounts of toxins such as lead, acetone, or benzene, according to the American Lung Association. While normal use should not pose harm, if you burn candles frequently, choose ones with no additives such as beeswax candles.

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Making Beeswax Candles

A. Characteristics of Beeswax Candles

1. Time consuming for the bee
2. Number of flowers typically visited for pound of wax
3. Smokeless
4. Clean Burning – for those sensitive allergens
5. Virtually Dripless
6. Scent – very pleasing and takes other odors out of the room

B. Preparing Wax/cleaning

1. Wax Melting – solar or electric
   Use stainless steel, plastic or tin plated containers only – other containers can make the wax dull and mud colored.
2. Double Boiler – water bath
3. Straining/filtering wax – ***remember, its hot wax***
   Sweatshirt material, panty hose, shop cloths, blue shop towels,
   T-shirts – 100% cotton

C. Unique features of beeswax candles

1. Bloom
2. Burn Time

D. Candle Molds

1. Polyurethane molds – Mann Lake
2. Plastic molds – 2 piece
3. Latex figure molds – Glory Bee
4. Metal molds
5. Flat molds

E. Steps in Making Molded Candles

1. Items needed – double boiler, rubber bands, wick holders, pliers, scissors, scales, wicking, thermometer, gloss spray, mold release.
2. Melt and strain wax
3. Wick sizes (Mann Lake suggestions)
   2/0 for 1" and smaller candles
   4/0 for 1" to 3" candles
   60 ply for 3" or larger candles
4. Desired temperature for pouring – 150-170 degrees
5. Coloring and fragrance – wears on your molds and can permanently stain, white wax, bleaching.
6. Cooling times for candles before pulling.

F. Marketing

G. Questions and Answers.