# Common Soap Making Mistakes in Home Made Soaps

# *MISTAKE #1*: Handling Lye Incorrectly

Lye is a caustic substance.

Handle it with respect and care. You should always treat it that way.

ALWAYS pour your lye into your water. That way you can control how much you add and slow down as needed. Pour slowly.

Lye water will initially be a little hazy. Make sure all the lye granules or flakes have been fully dissolved. No crunchies should be sitting at the bottom of your bowl.

Then pour your lye water slowly into your oils to make your soap batter.

# *MISTAKE #2:* Stop Overcomplicating Things

Your first batch of soap should be an easy recipe.   Until you understand how your recipe works.

Some fragrance oils and essential oils speed up trace or cause your batch to seize up. When soap seizes it means suddenly the soap turns into a hard blob of soap before you can pour it into a mold.

# *MISTAKE #3*: Using the Wrong Tools

You cannot use any metal with lye. The results could be explosive.

Here’s what you need:

* 2 – 3 Heavy-duty plastic containers (or you can use glass)
* 2 Plastic or rubber spatulas (use one for oils and one for lye water)
* Thermometer
* Stick Blender

# *MISTAKE #4*: Unsafe or Distracting Work Environment

Another related mistake is missing an ingredient altogether. Often because we get distracted.

Make sure to check off each ingredient in your recipe as you add them. Double-check yourself.

The area should have access to running water and be free of pets, children, and distractions.

Distractions are a sure way to make a mistake.

Make sure to use an area with adequate ventilation when mixing lye into water.

# *****MISTAKE # 5*** – Obsessing About Your Ingredients Temperature**

The lye water and oils needed to both be the same EXACT temperature before combining. It is not true.

We soap at room temperature. Meaning we melt and stick blend our oils ahead of time until emulsified. Then when it’s time to make our soap we only have to mix our lye into water.

Then immediately pour lye water into oils and begin stick blending.

Spatulas work great for getting all the batter out of your bowl. I label the handles with “Soap Only” with a sharpie. Dedicate all soap-making tools to soap-making (and not cooking or eating).

A stick blender is an initial investment but very worthwhile.

And you know what – it works every time! Our Grandma didn’t have fancy thermometers when they made soap. Aim for a safe range of 90 to 120 degrees for the oils and lye water.

# *Mistake #6:*  Measuring Ingredients Incorrectly

Measure your ingredients in grams. You’ll need a good kitchen scale.

You can measure in ounces, measurement should be in grams as it gives you a more accurate measurement. As a result, one of the most common soap-making mistakes is inaccurate measuring.

Measuring in cups or teaspoons is a big no-no! You may end up with a lye heavy batch of soap or a soap fail. Do yourself a favor, get a scale and measure in grams.

Take time to measure slowly without distractions.

You should use distilled water in your soap recipe instead of plain tap water. The hardness of your tap water and impurities in the water could cause unexpected results in your soap. It’s a precautionary step.

# *MISTAKE #7*: Not Using Safety Equipment

You must wear:

* Gloves – Use chemical resistant gloves  Regular kitchen gloves will suffice
* Long sleeves
* Pants
* Shoes or slippers (cover those feet)
* Breathing Mask – painters mask will suffice
* Safety Glasses