

# 10 tips for beginner soaps



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Sometimes is difficult start doing something new, that's why I'd give you a few tips to make some soaps.

## 1. Find information yourself before you start.

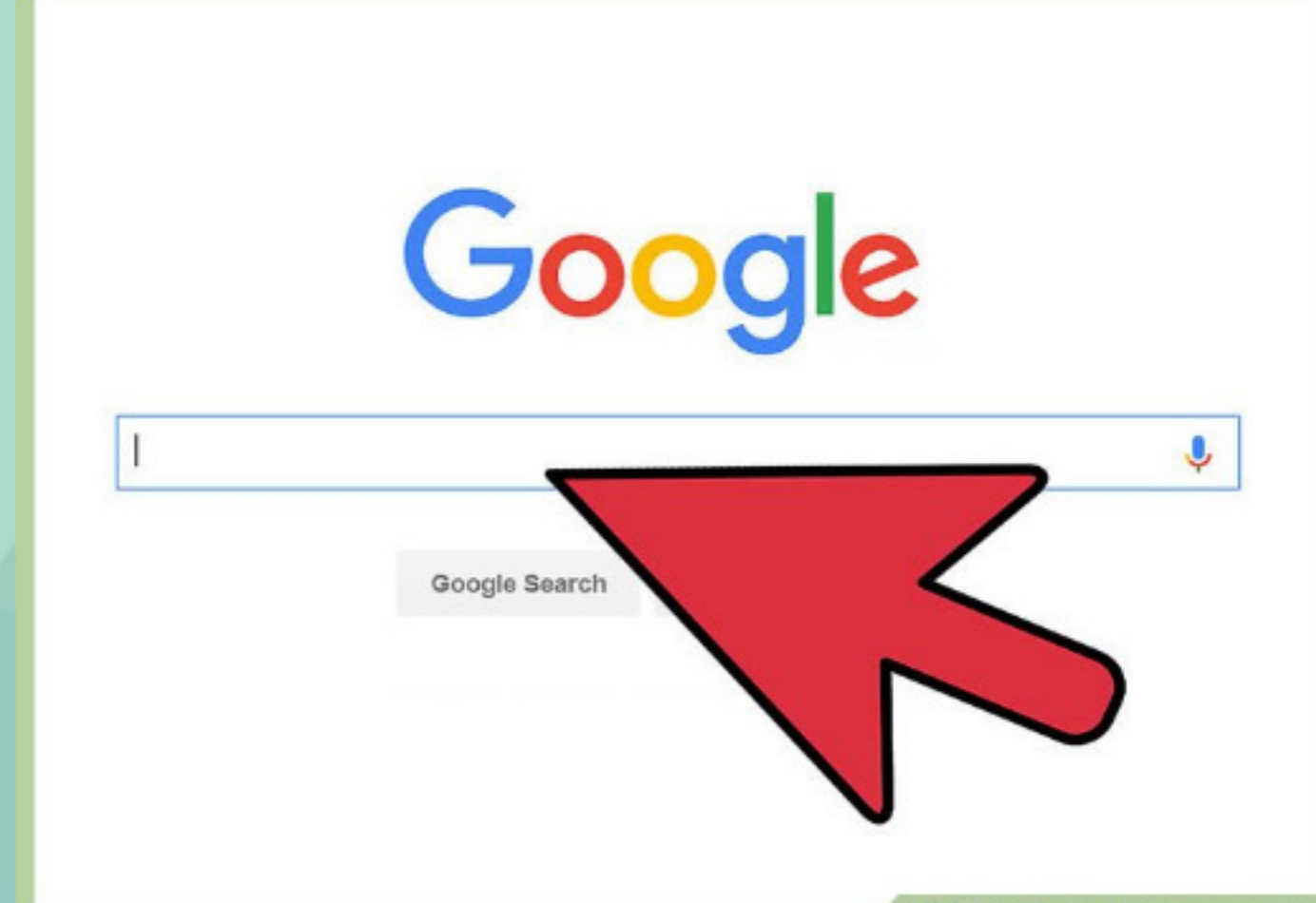
Soap is made by a chemical reaction between lye and oils. It can be dangerous, you have to find information and be careful.

## 2. Take a class.

Taking a class can lead you through the process of making soap with the guidance of an experienced teacher. It is always helpful to have an experienced person on hand to answer questions.

## 3. Start with a simple recipe such as our Bastile recipe.

The Bastile recipe is very simple. Ideally, you should make a batch with no colour and fragrance to start with. You can always add these things later. If your first batch goes wrong, then you already know that it wasn't the colour or fragrance.



SOAPING 101			
Bastile Soap Recipe			
Makes 2 pounds of 907 grams			
Superfatted at 5%			
	ounces	grams	percentage of total oils
Castor Oil	2	56.70	6.30%
Coconut Oil (76 Degrees)	8	226.80	25.00%
Olive Oil	22	623.59	68.89%
Sodium Hydroxide	4.41	125.02	
Distilled Water	10.56	299.37	

When subbing or increasing oils, be sure to run new recipe through a lye calculator.

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## 4. Don't buy a lot of expensive equipment straight away. Buy a couple of important things instead.

Don't go out and buy fancy moulds, expensive butters and all manner of exciting equipment. There are two very important things to buy. A digital scale, because you need to measure the ingredients accurately. And the other is a hand blender, a hand blender will make it so much easier.

## 5. Prepare in advance.

Weigh out all your ingredients in advance. This is really important because once the reaction starts, the clock is ticking! Having everything prepared at the start means that it is ready and to hand when you need it.



## 6. Wear your safety equipment.

Safety goggles and gloves are a must. It is really not a good idea to go without either of these. Make sure the gloves are well fitting and not too big. Goggles should be sturdy and you should be able to see out of them.

## 7. Use a slow-moving fragrance.

If you absolutely HAVE to have fragrance, use one that is slow moving. Some fragrances make the soap batter get very thick, very quickly. Most spicy fragrances and spicy essential oils speed up the reaction but essential oils such as lavender are slower. I find the FO Love Potion is great to work with for beginners.



## 8. Don't do a water discount.

Soapmakers sometimes use less water than is recommended in the recipe. It can help with some factors. Like speed up the rate of reaction. This won't give you time to work with the soap and is best left until you become more experienced.

## 9. Leave the dishes until the next day.

After you have finished making the soap, you will need to clear up. The best idea is to leave the soap dishes until the next day. If you wash them straight away, you will find they are still caustic. Instead, you can put all of your soap dishes in a large plastic bag and leave them overnight. By morning, the soap batter will no longer be as caustic. It's much safer to wash them then as you won't get burned.

## 10. Take notes.

This is really important. For each batch you make, write down your observations in a small notebook. If you change anything, make a note of any differences. You will then be able to look back at all this information you have gathered in the future. It doesn't have to be a long essay, just a little note to remind you.

