

How to Make Container Gel Candles

You will need:

Cooker Saucepan Metal ladle Measuring jug Weighing scales Scissors
Wick Sustainer (this is the metal thing attached to the bottom of the wick)
Glassware (most glassware is suitable, jars, drinking glasses, bowls – don't use glassware that looks 'delicate' or cracked)
Skewer type stick (to support the wick)
Dye – suitable for gel wax (optional)
Fragrance – suitable for gel wax (optional)
And finally; some Gel wax is always a good idea! There are different types of gel wax our normal gel wax has a melt point of 80-90 °C pour at around 90 °C.

To work out how much gel wax you will need for your container: Fill your container with water; pour the water into a measuring jug. For each 100 ml of water allow 80 g of gel wax.

Place the required amount of Gel wax in the saucepan (we advise you to make one candle at a time until you're happy with what you're doing – you don't want to waste your gel!)

Place saucepan on your hob - DO NOT cover the saucepan with a lid. This causes condensation and water will drip into your Gel wax. If you get water in your Gel wax, the wax will be no good.

Set the temperature control on low to medium – closer to low than medium. The Gel wax may take some time to melt depending on the quantity. DO NOT be tempted to rush the process by turning up the heat. You risk causing a fire and 'burning' the gel wax. If the gel wax begins to smoke you have the temperature too high. Remove the pan from the heat and reduce the temperature control.

Stir the Gel wax gently, every now and again, but not too much or you will add too many air bubbles into the Gel. Only use a metal spoon/ladle – a wooden one is porous and a plastic one could melt, both could contaminate your Gel wax and make it unsafe to use

Do not leave melting wax unattended

Turn off the hob before moving the saucepan

Whilst the Gel wax is melting you can prepare your containers.

Warm your glassware slightly in a very low oven.

Make sure your glassware is completely dry and not damaged in anyway

Cut your wick to at least 2 cms longer than the height of your container. Thread the wick through the metal sustainer and pinch together with the pliers. – You may have pre-prepared wicks where this has already been done.

Attach the sustainer to the bottom of the inside of your glass (a glue gun is handy for that or our specially developed glue dots), making sure the wick is central in the glass.

Attach a wick holder the top of your container to hold with wick nice and straight.

When the Gel wax has melted you may like to add some colour and fragrance - Turn off your hob - Only add products to your Gel wax that are labelled as safe to do so

Add your colour – just a very, very, small amount at a time until you have the desired colour – if you put in too much colour, add some more gel wax and re-melt. If using liquid colour, make sure you shake well before use.

Add your fragrance – the quantity is personal preference, but be careful not to add too much or your gel wax will become volatile. As a rule we normally use 10 ml of Essential oil or 20-30 ml of fragranced oil to 1 kilo of gel wax but this does depend on the strength of the oil – our own fragrance oils are specially developed for gel wax. Thoroughly stir your Gel to make sure you don't have a 'pool' of fragrance.

Now your Gel is ready to fill your containers

Either pour direct from the pan into your containers or use the ladle

Pour slowly and carefully leaving a gap of at least 1 cm from the gel to the rim of your container

When the Gel has set – some hours later - trim the wick to no more than ½ cm

Now you have your very own Gel candle!

DO NOT pour the gel down a drain – it will block it!

DO NOT pour water on the hot gel!

Your candle making equipment can be cleaned by washing in hot soapy water.

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