

Instructions for pouring wax lanterns

1. Decide on the height of the wax lantern. Place the appropriate quantity of wax in the wax melting pot and heat indirectly in a water bath to 80–90 °C, Fig. 1. The temperature of the wax has a major influence on how smooth the lantern surface will be. Wax must never be melted directly in a saucepan on account of the risk of fire.
2. Stir in the required wax colour. Do not add too much colour, since the lantern should allow light to shine through.
3. Pour the liquid wax into the lantern mould. Wait until a layer about 5 mm thick has solidified on the surface (30–90 minutes depending on the room temperature and the height to which the mould is filled).
4. Using a needle, cut through this layer of wax all the way round at a distance of 5 mm from the edge of the mould, Fig. 2. Carefully lift off this wax «lid» and place it back in the melting pot together with the wax from inside the mould that is still liquid. Using the wooden stick, remove the excess wax remaining on the walls and on the base, so as to leave a layer of 4–5 mm, Fig. 3. Smooth out any remaining irregularities with the palm of the hand.
5. Once the wax has solidified, carefully remove the lantern from the mould. If necessary, the top edge of the lantern can be straightened with a knife.
6. The lantern can be decorated by the serviette technique, or with wax paints or wax film. To give it a «glaze», the lantern can be immersed in pure paraffin wax heated to 90 °C (holding the lantern from the inside with both hands). A protective coating can also be achieved with candle gloss varnish (not suitable for the serviette technique, since the varnish is water-based).
7. Finally, it is advisable to fill the lantern base with plaster (standard commercial plaster) so that the tea-warmer candle does not melt the base.

Lantern candle, Fig. 5

Follow steps 1–6 as above.

Step 7: Pour an additional layer of wax, approximately 1 cm thick, into the lantern. Place a wick in the middle of the liquid wax, which is of the correct size for the candle diameter. Once this layer of wax has solidified, align the wick so that it is perpendicular and fix with the wooden stick or needle. Fill to the required height with wax that must not be hotter than 65 °C.

Using the lantern mould as a normal candle pouring mould, Fig. 6

Drill through the wick throat already provided on the base of the mould. Tie a tight double knot at the end of the wick. Thread the wick into the mould from below so that the knot seals off the opening. On the opposite side, tension the wick with the needle or wooden stick and fix it in place. Follow the instructions above for heating and colouring the wax, and fill the mould to the required height. Top up the depression that forms during cooling with additional wax. Once the candle has fully solidified, cut off the knot on the wick and remove the candle from the mould.

Warning

Use only under adult supervision. Melting wax directly in a saucepan or over a naked flame is a fire hazard. Wax vapour can ignite by itself at temperatures of 180 °C and above. Use a thermometer with a measuring range that extends up to 100 °C for checking the temperature. Never leave candles and wax lanterns unsupervised and always place them on a fireproof surface to burn.

