Creativity & Your Well-Being: DIY Household Goods Spring 2021



Beeswax Wrap

Supplies

- Beeswax
- Grater (if beeswax is not pre-grated)
- · Clean fabric
- · Pinking shears
- Aluminum foil (optional)
- Parchment paper
- · Baking sheet
- Wide paint brush (such as foam), ideally one you don't mind ruining
- Optional: pine rosin and jojoba oil

Instructions

- 1. Preheat oven to its lowest setting, or 200°F. Optional: line a baking sheet with foil to ensure that no wax sticks to it.
- 2. Grate beeswax using grater unless you bought it in beads.
- 3. Use pinking shears to cut fabric into desired shape and size this will reduce fraying. Try 8" or 11" squares that but make sure they fit on the baking sheet.
- 4. Cover the baking sheet with parchment paper. Place a piece of fabric on top and sprinkle with grated beeswax. Start with a light sprinkling, about 2 teaspoons you can always add more. If using, add a very light sprinkling (1/4 teaspoon) pine rosin and a few drops of jojoba oil.
- 5. Place in the oven and let it melt for 5-10 minutes. One the wax has melted, use the brush to cover the fabric evenly. If necessary, add more wax repeat this step.
- 6. Let fabric cool for a minute, then peel it off the parchment paper. Wave it around for a few seconds and the wax will harden. Set aside to allow to fully dry.
- 7. Repeat with remaining fabric.
- 8. When finished, tear up parchment paper and compost it. Dip grater into a pot of boiling water to remove excess wax.



Step 4: Sprinkle lightly with beeswax



Finished product

Materials Tips

- Fabric You can reuse old fabric such as a t-shirt, bed sheets, or curtains, but the fabric must be thin and natural, such as cotton or linen, rather than thick or synthetic, such as polyester or canvas.
- Beeswax You may be able to find local beeswax in a block, or you may find it at a craft store in beads.

Care Tips

- Only wash with cold water and mild soap (such as castile soap). Hot water will melt the wax.
- Do not use for raw meat since they cannot be washed with hot water
- Store rolled rather than folded; Folding creates more cracks

Iron Method

- You can also use an iron instead of an oven, but you may have to designate the iron and ironing board for wax projects only. If the wax sticks to the iron or ironing board, it will stick to your clothes and will not come off!
- To use this method place the fabric and beeswax between
 2 sheets of parchment paper. Iron over it on low heat,
 moving the iron constantly, until wax melts, about 1 minute.



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Seed Paper

Source: The Spruce (thesprucecrafts.com/how-to-make-seed-paper-2905562)

Supplies

- Uncoated/non-glossy newspaper, tissue paper, or junk mail, torn into small pieces.
- Seeds (wildflowers, herbs, vegetables)
- Blender
- Mixing bowl
- Parchment or plastic wrap
- Towel or paper towel
- Optional: cookie cutters or scissors

Planting Instructions

If paper is large, tear into smaller pieces. Lay the seed paper on top of soil and sprinkle about ¼ inch thick layer of soil on top. Water the soil lightly and keep the seeds wet until they sprout and have a few days to grow roots.

Instructions

- 1. Place torn paper in the blender and add twice as much water. For example, if the paper reaches the 1 cup mark on the blender, add 2 cups of water. Blend the paper into a pulp, and then transfer it to the mixing bowl. Squeeze the water from the pulp, and make sure there aren't any large chunks of paper in it.
- 2. Add a handful of seeds to the pulp, but not too many if you plan to write on the paper. Gently mix the seeds into the pulp with your hands or a spoon. Using a blender could damage the seeds.
- 3. Press the paper pulp on plastic wrap or parchment paper into your desired shape. If using, press the pulp inside of a cookie cutter. Try to spread the pulp fairly thin, as a thick layer will take longer to dry. Use a paper towel or cloth to press out as much water as possible.
- 4. Dry the seed paper quickly to avoid sprouting the seeds. Place the seed paper in a warm environment (but not in the sun), and ensure that air can circulate around it. Blowing the seed paper with a hairdryer on the cool setting can help it to dry.
- 5. When the seed paper is thoroughly dry, cut into desired shapes or write/draw on it.

Tips

- Use seed paper as an invitation, a thank you note, a gift tag, or just a fun project.
- You can soak paper overnight before blending it to make it easier to break up.
- Choose small seeds with a high germination rate. Try noninvasive wildflowers or low maintenance herbs or vegetables.
- You can also make recycled paper without seeds, or you can add other decorative ingredients such as dried flowers.
- You can use a mold and deckle to make paper. Learn how to make your own here: paperslurry.com/2014/08/01/make-mould

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Foaming Hand Soap

Supplies

- Unscented Castile Soap
- Fractionated Coconut
 Oil
- Distilled/Filtered Water
- Measuring Spoons
- Essential Oil for scent if desired (ex. lavender, orange, eucalyptus, etc.)
- Empty foaming hand soap dispenser

Instructions

- 1. Pour 2-3 tablespoons of unscented castile soap into an empty foaming hand soap dispenser.
- 2. Add 1 tablespoon of fractionated coconut oil.
- 3. Add 10-15 drops of essential oil, depending on the size of your bottle/desired scent strength
- 4. Fill the the bottle with distilled/filter water, leaving a little space for air at the top. Screw the top of the container on and shake to mix.

Tips

- Substitutes for Fractionated Coconut Oil: Jojoba Oil, Vitamin E Oil, Almond Oil
- Over time, you may have to shake the bottle before use as the oil naturally settles. This does not affect the cleaning properties of the soap.



Scented Room Spray

Supplies

- Empty small/travel size spray bottle
- Essential Oil for scent
- Distilled/Filtered Water

Instructions

- Add 10-15 drops of essential oil into small spray bottle, depending on size of container and desired scent strength
- 2. Fill the remainder of the bottle with distilled/filtered water, leaving a little space for air at the top. Screw the top of the container on and shake to mix.

Tips

- Always shake before using--this allows oil the oil and water to mix as density causes them to naturally separate when left alone.
- Recommendation: spray 2-8 times in a room, as needed.