

Sand Candles



Items needed (quantity per creation)

- Sand (sandpit sand will work well)
- Soy wax (quantity depends on how big the sand molds are)
- 1 wick
- Ice block sticks or chopsticks to hold wick
- Pot
- Bowl (or metal jug)
- Thermometer (candy thermometer works fine)

Optional

- Candle dyes

Instructions

1- Start by preparing the molds inside the sand. The molds will work best if the sand is wet, so pour a small amount of water on the sand before starting. Then scoop out sand to shape the mold (either freehand or use a form e.g. a small jar or plastic cup). Then place the wick in the middle, pushed down into the sand a bit (the bottom will become the top of the candle). The wick should be stiff enough to stand on it's own, otherwise tie it to a stick or chopstick.

2- Prepare the soy wax. To melt the wax put some water in a pot on the stove. The water needs to be hot but does not need to be boiling to melt the wax. Put the metal bowl on top of the pot so its touching the water. Add your wax to start melting it down.

3- Once wax is melted it should be between 55 and 80 degrees Celsius. At this point you can mix in your dye (if using). Let the wax cool to about 50-60 degrees Celsius before pouring into the molds. Allow to set fully before removing (this may take a couple of hours depending on the air temperature).

Remove from the mold and you have a candle.

Find the resources

For this craft we used soy wax '[golden wax GW 646](https://www.purenature.co.nz)' from [purenature.co.nz](https://www.purenature.co.nz) as its easiest to work with. You can also find the wicks, colours and 'how to' tips at this site.



This activity does require melting wax so remember to do your risk assessment before doing this activity. Also remind to children not to play with fire and that an adult should only use the candle.