

Rendering Beeswax

Keep in mind that anything that beeswax touches will be unusable for any other purpose. Use something disposable like a milk carton or reusable like a cool whip container. Also, beeswax is highly flammable. Never heat directly on open flame. Never leave unattended. Always have a fire extinguisher on hand.

- 1) Cover counter with newspaper, butcher paper, etc., and cover floor with a drop cloth. (If your floors and counters are heat and scratch resistant, you don't need to worry about covering. Beeswax is easily removed from these surfaces using a scraper and hairdryer.) Clean your container that you're using to collect rendered wax.
- 2) Cover collection container with filter material. You can use cheese cloth or an old t-shirt. Doesn't matter which, because you're throwing it away when you're done. Fold filter material over a couple times so that you have multiple layers. Make sure you have enough material to drape over sides of container and enough to droop inside. Use a rubber band to keep filter material in place.
- 3) Gather up cappings, burr comb, and chunks of broken comb. There will also be honey in there. This will get separated out, also.
- 4) Scoop wax into container that you're using as a melter. I like to use a yard rent jug. It's inexpensive and easy to use. Don't over fill. You will want the melted wax well below the handle. Also, mark this container so it doesn't get used for any other purpose.
- 5) Fill a pot with water and turn on burner. Keep safety in mind.
- 6) Place melt container in water, creating a double boiler. You don't need a boil. Think poach or simmer. Beeswax melts at about 150F.
- 7) As wax melts, keep an eye on your water level and add accordingly. Be patient. Do not allow wax to boil.
- 8) Double check your collection container and filter material. Make sure the filter is enough of a bowl to collect all the debris. There will probably be more than you think.
- 9) Once wax has melted, you'll notice the debris is on the bottom and the clear wax has floated to the top.
- 10) Carefully pour wax through filter into container. The debris will gather in the filter. Wax and honey will drop below.
- 11) Let the beeswax cool overnight. The beeswax will have floated to the top and hardened. Any honey will be setting at the bottom.
- 12) If you used a milk carton, rip the carton away from the wax. If using a plastic container, cut down the side. Either way, the wax block will be sticky on the bottom side. (Honey is probably not usable. Heating generally ruins it.)
- 13) Rinse block with warm water to wash away honey. Weigh block, so you know how much you have.