



ELM FORK
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION

Wax Rendering & Cleaning

Wax can be as Valuable as the Honey...!

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Products that can be made from Beeswax

- Candles
- Lip Balm
- Furniture Wax
- Waxed Cloth Food Wrappers
- Cutting Board/Salad Bowl Conditioner
- And many more... lots of ideas available online... and recipes!
- Bulk Beeswax
- Hand Cream
- Lotion Bars

Sources for Beeswax

- Cappings – always the best
- Old Comb when you rotate in new frames
- Cut-outs – after you harvest any honey
- The Comb does NOT have to be new or even relatively clean



Supplies

- Pots – main and a double boiler – old, cheap, used only for wax
- Cheese cloth – bulk online is very inexpensive
- Rubber molds
- Muffin pans
- Paper cups
- Plastic bristle brush
- Heat source – stove top, induction burner, crockpot, propane burner
- Location – kitchen, garage, honey house
- Paper towels
- Chopsticks for stirring
- Rubber gloves

How-To Render

- Scrape comb from frames or collect cappings
- Wrap palm sized lumps of wax in cheesecloth balls – tie closed
- Bring pot of water to simmer (don't boil)
- Add cheesecloth balls 1 or 2 at a time, add more as the wax begins to melt
- As the wax melts, squeeze the balls to force more wax out (this is why you don't boil the water – the wax will burn your hand – and why you need rubber gloves)
- When you have squeezed out as much wax as you can, set the balls aside, remove the heat and allow the water/wax to cool



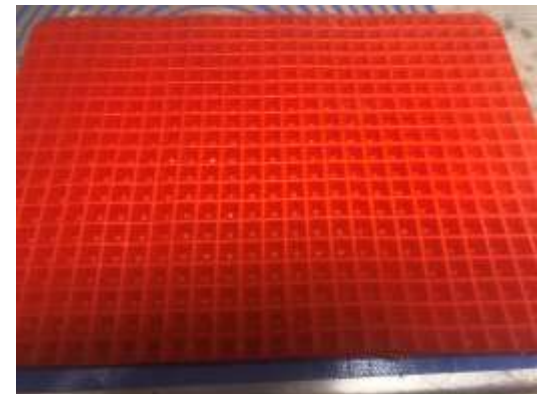
How-To Clean

- The wax will float to the top and cool into a nice layer of wax
- Pour off the water and remove the wax block
- The bottom of the wax will have some trash and a soft gritty texture – use cold water and the brush to remove the unwanted “stuff”
- Break the block into pieces and place in a double boiler until melted
- Pour the melted wax through a filter – coffee filter, cheesecloth, paper towel – that removes any remaining solid material
- You will lose some wax n the filtering process



How-To Portion

- Melt the cleaned wax again in the double boiler
- Pour the melted wax into the mold of your choice – muffin tin, rubber mold, or small paper cups
- This gives you nice sized wax pieces for handling to sell or use in your recipes



Option for Large Batches

- Propane burner and boiling pot for the first rendering



Questions?

$$*e = MC^2*$$