

Making the Perfect Bath Bomb

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Perfect Bath Bomb Formula

6 Ounces of Sodium Bicarbonate (Baking Soda)

6 Ounces of Citric Acid (Vitamin C)

3 Ounces of Cornstarch, Bubble Powder, and/or Dried Milk

1 Ounce of White Kaolin Clay

1-2 teaspoons of Mica for Color (optional)

2 Ounces of Warm Body Butter, Fragrance and/or Carrier Oil

Mix in food processor until it clumps in your hands. Be sure to slowly drizzle the wet ingredients as it is spinning. The same patience needs to be applied when adding the alcohol. Very slowly so you do not overwhelm your mix.

4 Tablespoons of Rubbing Alcohol

Mold, “drop,” and allow to dry overnight. If you have very humid air, you may have to skip ventilation and place in a shrink or zip lock bag.

Important Notes

Rubbing Alcohol and Kaolin White Clay to Make Bath Bombs Hard

A few of my customers have been seriously involved with perfecting their bath bombs, so I joined the e-mail dialog and effort. I happen to have needed a new stash and I like to vary in shapes. I had never discussed letting finished bath bombs set out to dry overnight, primarily because I always used fragrance oil, or hard, but warm oils to snow ball them together—not water. **A bath bomb guru in London told me he used rubbing alcohol at “finish” to make his seriously huge bombs. He pointed out the alcohol evaporates, leaving his shape intact.** People using a few teaspoons of water at “finish” experience mold problems and rather quickly. **He used 2 Tablespoons of rubbing alcohol per pound of mixed ingredients at finish, and 2 Tablespoons of white Kaolin Clay to each pound at the start of mixing.** He said the clay also helps dry the product faster. I happily found both statements to be true.

Finish is defined as the stage when the mixture will clump in your hands, but is still in the food processor. You shut the lid, start blending again, and SLOWLY add two tablespoons of rubbing alcohol per pound. If you do more than dribble—your mixture will “go off.” You achieve your clump stage with oil based items only, such as warm shea butter, or fragrance oil.

Getting it Out in One Piece – Drop’em

The best of us have been brought to our knees at this precise moment. Everything looks good and your two full molds seemed to “marry” each other to make a ball—yet the finished round will not come out of one side or both sides of the mould. Move over ladies and let me show you how it’s done! As long as you have “clump” going on and all seems well, drop the plastic mould onto the counter and both sides should easily fall off. When you try to make it happen, with your hands, it will not. I figured this out in exasperation. I threw the mold across my kitchen, just missed Ringo (my dog) and the little ball came rolling out of the mold. Then I stood there making plenty more and after I was sure I packed hard. **I dropped them about an inch from the counter and they did pop out easy.** I do expect a noble prize on expounding on Newton’s theory. He dropped apples and I drop bath goodies. Life is good! Packing is actually a breeze now with alcohol and you do not need to be Hercules at all. These theories apply to most any mould. **For a perfect bath bomb, you do need to be true to the recipe below—when it comes to dry, oil and liquid ingredients. Variations of each are wide open.**

Scenting and Adorning

I prefer to just use shea butter or jojoba oil which are awesome for the skin. I **scent and decorate my bombs AFTER they are hard**, having set out for a day. This gives me time to focus on just aromatherapy and vary my finished product. I find essential oils offer a much more therapeutic value as well as a great scent for the bathroom while on display. I scent them by spraying them with a little mister or just dropping drops from a pipette. I can add up to 20 drops to each bomb and it does not affect the structure of the bomb. It may affect the color-but that often looks cool and “hippie” so I do not mind.

Yes, You Can Salvage It

A few authors have commented if you mess up the liquid part, you are screwed. That is not really true unless you dropped a lake in your dry part. If I ruin a batch, I mix in some more dry ingredients and set it aside for fizzy bath salts. It is true it would be a waste of time to try to mold it, but it can be used for other projects such as free flow.

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Using Mica's for Outstanding Natural Color

I always think no color is great color. I like to put a rose bud or rose peals in my mold first. But I did find the beautiful colors most people are achieving is because they are using 1-2 teaspoons of bright mica powder per pound of mix. I have also seen beautiful marble effects by swirling two contrasting batches gently together. Such as fuchsia and orange. I did find a way to use our white jasmine buds was to use a contrasting mix with mica, such as purple.



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