

**In Wardeh's words...**

**Hot Process Soap via the Crockpot Method  
As taught by Dolores Boone in "Handcrafted Soap"**

**Safety Equipment:**

Protective clothing  
Disposable plastic gloves  
Long-sleeve Shirt  
Safety glasses or face shield

**Equipment:**

Cookware -- stainless steel pot for melting oils  
Crockpot -- older models don't heat as hot, which is a benefit  
Digital scale  
Stick blender  
Glass measuring cups  
Small glass bowls (for smaller measurements)  
Long-handled plastic spoon  
Rubber spatula  
Metal ice cream spade  
Funnel (filling molds)  
Pitcher filled with soapy vinegar mixture

**Method:**

1. Measure the distilled water and lye in separate glass measuring cups. Wear all protective clothing, gloves and face shield during this step.
2. Combine water and lye, by carefully pouring the lye into the water while stirring with a long-handled spoon. Wear all protective clothing, gloves and face shield during this step. Work underneath a stove vent, to pull the fumes upward. Stir until all lye crystals are dissolved. Set aside, out of the way of pets or children, or the possibility of being knocked over.
3. Neutralize any leftover lye crystals by pouring a soapy-vinegar mixture over the glass measuring cup and spoon.
4. Preheat the slow cooker on low for 10 minutes.
5. Measure the solid oils. Tare the glass measuring cup on the digital scale. Using the ice cream spade, measure out the correct amount of each oil by measuring its weight in the measuring cup. Start at the top of the recipe and work your way down the list (so as to not to confuse yourself).
6. Melt the solid oils in a stainless steel pot over low heat on the stove. When melted, add them to the crockpot. Use spatula to scrape out the pot thoroughly.
7. Measure the liquid oils, following the procedure of taring the scale to zero with the measuring cup on it before adding liquid oils to the desired weight. You may measure them separately, or together in one larger measuring cup. Add these oils to the crockpot.
8. Slowly pour the lye water into the slow cooker and mix with a stick blender. Blend for about five minutes, to bring the mixture to "trace". You will notice it thicken. Continue to blend until it resembles instant pudding.
9. Place the lid on the slow cooker and let it cook for 1 hour. Watch through the glass as the mixture changes. Do not lift lid if you can help it or you will lose too much heat and slow the cooking process. The changes -- 1) Thicken more in the middle and smooth out a bit; 2) Edges will rise a bit and curl toward the center, looking like waves, while the center remains smooth and solid (called "waves and island"); 3) Waves roll closer toward the center, making the island smaller; and and 4) Island sinks beneath the waves and a clear liquid floats on top of the soap that is now somewhat translucent (the liquid is

the natural glycerin that is a by-product of the chemical reaction which makes soap). Stir the glycerin back into the soap.

10. Turn the slow cooker off and lift the bowl out of the heating element. Stir to cool down the soap (like folding in ingredients of a cake batter).

11. Put soap in molds. Some molds (such as drawer trays and PVC pipe or plastic containers) should be sprayed with oil and then lined with freezer paper (shiny side toward the soap). Smooth the top. Sometimes it helps to put a piece of freezer paper over the soap and then smooth it with hands or a flat object. Let dry for a few hours. Remove from mold. Slice as desired (if necessary).

*Process is summarized from Dolores Boone's book "Handcrafted Soap". Some notes are made by me, Wardeh Harmon, based on my own experience. :D*