

## Soapy things to do when you can't make soap today:

- \* Weigh out all your empty soap containers and label them with their weight. Don't forget cups, pourers, crockpot liners, bowls, pitchers, anything you may have soap or soap ingredients in at some time. You may not need those weights all the time, but when you do, it's a bummer to realize you didn't tare the weight of the container before pouring the thing in.
- \* Premix frequently used colorants and put them in labeled squeeze bottles. Write the name, source, and what you've dispersed it in.
- \* Catalog all of your FO's and EO's, make an alphabetized list and keep it up-to-date as to how much is left in the bottle(s). Then organize your stock so you can find what you're looking for later.
- \* Experiment with various blends of FO's and EO's you've been meaning to try.
- \* Organize a notebook to keep all your recipe notes. Make tabbed sections for "soaps to try," "soaps completed," "recipe fails," "oils references," "fragrance references" and things like that. Write things down on your recipes about your batches that you've been meaning to write down, but haven't yet. Keep notes on fragrance blends you've liked. Notes are your friends.
- \* Take pictures of your soaps, then organize them in files on your computer.
- \* Masterbatch oils for frequently used recipes, and label them.
- \* Masterbatch lye solutions if you know you're going to use the same lye/water ratio over and over in your recipes. Label, label, label.
- \* Go shopping. Yep, to Goodwill, Salvation Army, Dollar Tree, yard sales. You know the drill, and what to look for.
- \* Gather up pictures of things that have inspired you, and put them in your notebook under "soaps to try." Take notes as you freeflow ideas about how you could reproduce the elements of your inspiration into soap.
- \* Make packaging for your soaps, if practical: cigar bands, fabric bags, labels, whatever will be needed to package your soap for gifting or sale.
- \* Figure out (if you don't know it already) how much soap is needed to fill each one of your molds, including the single bar molds, and put records of these amounts in your notebook.
- \* Watch soaping videos, read soaping blogs, or get on the soaping forum and see if there's a newb you can help.
- \* Freeze things in cubes that you're going to want for soap later, and put them in good, tight, labeled, freezer containers: milks, coffee, flat beer, teas.
- \* Check the expiration dates on your more exotic and perishable oils, and make plans to use them up before they go rancid.
- \* Get those herbs you've been meaning to infuse into some oil.
- \* Organize those additives. You know, that box that's stuffed with envelopes of herbs and bags of clay and jars of.....what IS that stuff, anyway? Resolve to never keep something if a label has gotten defaced or fallen off, without rehoming it to a new, labeled, container. Maybe first you should just raid the neighbors' recycle bins for jars and plastic containers, THEN organize the additives so they're not a jumble in a box.