

Processing Beeswax

by John Pashia



***A recent EMBA survey showed that only 39% of us
process our wax!
What do the other 61% of you do?***



How clean do you need your wax? What is your filtering goal?

Recoating plastic foundation? Making starter strips of foundation? Selling to bee suppliers? Making lip balm, lotions or face products? Making soaps or shoe polish? Candles?

Be resourceful & inventive when trying to find a filtering method that works well for you.

There are many different ways to filter wax. My methods have changed over the years & may be different than yours.

Filtering Beeswax 101

- Beeswax melts at about 145 degrees and cools quickly
- Filtering beeswax requires a heat source (electric or solar) & a way to filter
- The finer the filtering material, the slower it will filter & the quicker it will clog
- Hot wax can cool rapidly and prematurely clog filters (heat gun)
- What makes a good wax filter? Heat resistant – needs to withstand 150 -200+ degrees
- Fine enough to meet your filtering goal
- Non-absorbent – minimal wax lost/absorbed into filter
- Readily available – a filter material you have access to
- Inexpensive – think panty hose / paper towels



I begin my process by rinsing the wax flakes to remove residual honey for easier processing

I find that plastic honey filters make the work quick and efficient. The flakes dry until I can process them.





Completely dry your wax flakes to prevent mold (during storage) .

Removing water soluble contaminants prior to melting

Presoaking wax flakes overnight helps remove contaminants before melting

Initial rinse at 8am



2nd rinse at 10am



3rd rinse at 1pm



4th rinse at 2pm



Turkey roaster / crock pot method of melting large batches of wax
Add dry or freshly rinsed wax Melt wax with 1-2" water and flakes to roaster. Add about 1-2" of water to roaster skim slumgum with strainer



Wax filtering tips Safety first!!!
A heat gun / hair dryer can help keep wax & tools hot

A thin layer of dish detergent acts as a bucket mold release



Initial melting will refine wax for later use in a solar melter
Preheat wire strainer to keep Once cooled, easily remove hot wax moving through filter floating wax block



Minimal wax loss method

**Remove propolis/slumgum
From bottom of wax block**

**Approximately 90% clean wax
block ready for solar melter**



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