

# Soap Impressions

## How to Make a Great Impression

- To get the best impression, be sure to cut your bars evenly with as flat a surface as possible. Dips and waves will give you an uneven impression.
- The best time to stamp your soap depends on your formula. If the bars are fairly soft, it is best to let them “breathe” for a few days. We have good luck stamping our bars right after they are cut. In this case, we just press the stamp gently into the soap by hand.
- If your soap is harder, you may need to use a mallet or hammer. Position the stamp on your soap, and give it a couple of easy taps. Practice a couple of times first on a scrap piece of soap and you’ll soon get a feel for how much pressure is needed. We have found that a 3 lb. maul used gently (one to two taps) is a very good way to stamp harder bars of soap.
- If soap begins to stick on your stamp, use a small, stiff brush to clean it off. If it is left on the stamp, it will blur the image.

## Melt & Pour Soap

- Melt & Pour soap can get very hard and may be more difficult to stamp than cold (or hot) process soaps. To make sure that you can still easily stamp your M&P soaps, take them out of the molds as soon as possible and stamp them while the soap is still somewhat soft. You may have to use just a few more taps with a mallet to get a good image stamped on the soap.
- If you are not going to be able to stamp your soaps soon after unmolding them, try adding just a bit of distilled water (1-2 oz. per pound of soap) to the soap base before you pour it into the molds. This will keep the soap soft a bit longer and will give you more time to stamp. The excess moisture will evaporate in a few days.

## Care & Maintenance

- After use, rinse your stamp under running water and using a soft brush, (a toothbrush works well) scrub off any soap particles that might remain. Rinse again and dry the stamp thoroughly before storing it.
- **Your stamp has been sealed with several coats of clear lacquer to protect both the stamp and the soap. You should refresh this coating about once a month depending on how often you use the stamp.** (The lacquer is just a clear spray that is available at most hardware stores.) These stamps are not guaranteed to withstand contact with lye heavy soap or a strong lye solution. It’s always a good idea to check the pH of your soap before stamping it, both for the sake of your stamp AND your skin.

Please contact us if you need assistance.  
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