

Tips for choosing the right fabric

100% cotton fabric, preferably organic. Lightweight and tightly woven, no stretch. A blended fabric *might* work, but watch out for heating up polyester or acrylics, since these are made of plastic fibres, and I doubt the fumes would be good for you. Patterned or darker coloured fabrics help disguise any marks left by food drips and drops. Whatever you do, don't go with white! Beeswax usually has a yellowish cast – this will colour your fabric, so choose one that won't clash.

Care and use of your beeswax wraps

They're not designed to be used with hot or very drippy foods. The warmth of your hand on the wraps is what allows them to shape around things. It's easiest when they're at room temperature. Wash with warm soapy water, not hot. Don't wrap raw meat/fish.

Please don't toss the cloth when the wax wears off in six months to a year. Creased and otherwise worn looking cloths can be re-waxed indefinitely at home, and reuse is the whole point, isn't it?

All taken from:

<https://blog.mountainroseherbs.com/the-complete-guide-to-diy-beeswax-wraps-including-a-beeless-vegan-food-wrap>

- Our note : we strongly advise you to check out a supplier, before purchasing any items, to see if their stock has been passed as fit for human consumption

The BEST Reusable Beeswax Wrap Recipe

Ingredients (Makes (2 to 3) 12 x 12 inch cloths)

100 percent cotton fabric, organic if possible
0.35 oz. sustainably sourced pine resin * (see end of article)
1.25 oz. beeswax pastilles/pellets or grated beeswax *
1 Tbsp. organic jojoba oil *
Large lollipop stick or other compostable stirrer
Parchment paper
Dedicated paint brush

Directions

- Wash and dry fabric.
- Cut fabric into desired shapes and sizes.
- Place pine resin, beeswax, and jojoba oil in a double boiler or glass measuring cup and set in a saucepan.
- Add water to saucepan until the mixture inside the double boiler or measuring cup is below waterline. Turn on heat to medium.
- Preheat oven to 150 C.
- Allow ingredients to melt and meld together, about 20 to 25 minutes.
- Cover large baking tray with a sheet of parchment paper larger than your biggest piece of fabric.
- Spread a fabric piece (or pieces, depending on size) flat on parchment paper.
- Brush mixture lightly onto fabric. It might solidify, which is fine, as you'll be able to redistribute later. It's easy to oversaturate, so remember that it's easier to add more than take the excess away.
- Put baking tray in oven for 2 minutes, or until fabric looks wet.
- Remove from oven and look for any dry spots. Brush mixture over these uncovered areas, applying more coating as needed. If you notice unevenness after adding more, you can place it back in the oven for a few minutes to smooth.
- Place the next wrap(s) you are going to make on top of the finished fabric to soak up any excess coating mixture. Work quickly, as you don't want the wax to begin to solidify.
- Once you've pressed any excess onto the new cloth, peel apart and hang your completed wrap(s) to dry. Drying only takes a few minutes.
- Repeat steps with additional pieces of fabric until you are out of coating mixture.

The following story of this person's 'Journey' to just the right beeswax mixture above may be of interest :-

'When testing this recipe, I made large squares (14 inches), medium squares (10 inches), and a circle for my favorite big bowl. I also sewed up a few snack bags; if you go this route, I recommend sewing them before waxing. If you happen to have pinking shears, I'd recommend putting them to use, as they will reduce fraying as you cut and wax your fabric.

FIRST ATTEMPT: BEESWAX ONLY

One very common method I found on Pinterest was to simply coat fabric with beeswax and, it being the easiest, that's how I started. I began by cutting a test square of fabric, lightly sprinkling beeswax pastilles on the cloth, and popping everything into my oven. A few minutes later the wax had melted, allowing me to brush it around to evenly coat the fabric. It quickly set up, but the result was a very stiff wrap with none of the stickiness that makes conventional plastic wraps so useful. Plus, when I tried to mold it around a bowl, it cracked. Strike one.

SECOND ATTEMPT: BEESWAX AND JOJOBA OIL

These are two of the three ingredients in the wraps I had purchased, and this simple combination also seemed super easy to whip up. I prepped another test square, put the beeswax and jojoba oil in a small double boiler, melted the mixture, brushed it on, popped everything into the oven, pulled it out, and brushed again for an even coating. Attempt two was a step in the right direction. These wraps were pliable and would form around a bowl, but they still wouldn't stick to themselves or the sides of the bowl. Strike two.

THIRD ATTEMPT: BEESWAX AND COCONUT OIL

After my prior try with jojoba oil, I was skeptical that this attempt would prove much more successful. I was pleasantly surprised that it worked! The wraps were pliable, sticky, and easy to create. However, I found that they left a coconut oil film on everything they touched, and it took a surprising amount of elbow grease to get this residue off of a mason jar lid's grooves. Not a strike, per se — it worked, but it was messy. Maybe a lucky bunt?

FOURTH ATTEMPT: BEESWAX, JOJOBA OIL, AND COPAL RESIN

The commercial beeswax wraps that I had purchased contained pine resin. Since the term copal describes resinous substances in an intermediate stage of polymerization between softer and amber resins, I thought our wild harvested copal just might work. And it did! Plus, it saved me from needing to source pine resin. This blend seemed to meet all of my criteria, and I was so happy with my results that I published the recipe here in the original version of this blog post.

I did receive some feedback from friends that they didn't enjoy having to wait so long for the copal to melt, and some people who didn't source their copal resin from us had a difficult time getting it to melt at all. Since one of my goals was also to create a user-friendly recipe with consistent results, I went back to the drawing board.

FIFTH AND FINAL ATTEMPT: BEESWAX, JOJOBA OIL, AND PINE RESIN

As much as I had initially resisted using pine resin, I thought that maybe there was a reason that many of the wraps on the market today include this ingredient. As it turns out, this is indeed the case! The pine resin melted in a fraction of the time the copal required, and all of my recipe testers found that it worked more consistently. We do not currently offer pine resin here at Mountain Rose Herbs, so we urge you to seek out and opt for a pine resin that is sustainably sourced and harvested to help protect these amazing trees and their ecosystems.

It is will great pleasure (and relief) that I present to you, the very best DIY reusable wraps! The resulting treated fabric has the same feeling as my purchased beeswax wraps and is totally customizable into any shape, pattern, or color you want!'