

# Rendering beeswax from Honeycomb

## Materials:

- Large metal stainless steel pot
- Chunks of honeycomb
- Large heat safe spoon
- Cheesecloth
- Strainer
- A few large heat-safe containers

1. Fill a large metal pot with the scraped off honeycomb, breaking large pices up to fit if needed
2. Cover the comb with water until mostly covered.
  - There is no exact measurement for this, it depends on how much comb is being used and the size of the pieces
  - Some comb sticking out is okay, it will melt down quickly.



3. Turn stove on to medium heat and slowly cook down the mixture, making sure nothing sticks to the bottom of the pot.
  - Make sure mixture does not boil or you risk burning the wax
4. Continue stirring until mixture starts to break up and parts start to float on top.
  - It will start to look somewhat shiny on top as the wax starts to solidify on the floating debris



5. While the honeycomb and water mixture continue to heat up, prepare the strainer by adding a few layers of cheesecloth to the inside.
  - It should be folded a few times to add some extra layers for filtering



6. Place the prepared strainer and cheesecloth over a heat safe bowl
  - Make sure it can withstand very hot liquids – The mixture will be poured in here to cool down.
    - o Glass bowls or metal bowls work best
  - If cooking a large batch, it is best to have a few containers ready to go
7. Allow the mixture to keep cooking for a few minutes longer and allow to cool slightly, stirring so the wax does not set against the sides of the pot.
8. Slowly and carefully pour the mixture over the strainer and cheesecloth, making sure none spills - VERY HOT
  - Do not fill completely, and it may require a few containers
9. Allow to cool completely for a few hours up to overnight
  - The wax and water will separate from each other, the wax settling on top and the impurities and water on the bottom.
10. Once the wax has cooled completely it can be removed from the container
  - It will pop out easy and the water can be dumped outside
  - The wax will be a nice yellow color and there will still be some dirt and other impurities on the bottom. That is okay because we will repeat the process until clean



11. Repeat the same process, adding the beeswax to a large pot and fill it with water so the wax is just covered.

- Stir slowly, making sure the mixture does not boil, and allow the wax to melt and mix with the water.
- It will look less chunky this time around
- Once everything is fully melted and mixed together, strain through a clean strainer and cheesecloth, pouring into clean heat safe containers
- Allow to cool completely

12. Once cooled there will likely still be debris on the bottom, so repeat step 11 until the wax is as clean as you would like.

- Sometimes this needs to be done as many as 5 times



13. An optional step would be to do one final filter through a piece of clean cotton fabric to strain out any small particles that may have been missed by the strainer and cheesecloth

14. Once the wax is as clean as you would like, it is time to do one final melt and put it into molds for easier use.

15. Using a double boiler, melt down the wax, this time without water and on a very low heat, stirring to allow everything to melt

- Once everything is melted completely, pour the wax into silicone molds. This will allow the wax to be easier to handle and measure for future projects.

