

Wash your hands! It's fun!

If you're running low on soap but can't find any at the stores, have some good clean fun making your own soap with your kids. It's a favorite activity of our after-school program at the Opportunity Center.

You'll need:

- Plastic soap molds or plastic cups
- Vegetable cooking spray or petroleum jelly
- Pure glycerin soap (sold in blocks or cubes at craft stores)
- Microwave-safe measuring cup
- Red, yellow, and blue soap dyes (found at craft stores)
- Small plastic animals or trinkets (optional)
- A chopstick or popsicle stick

Directions

1. Spray the interior of the plastic molds with a small amount of cooking spray. Make sure to cover all areas. If you use too much spray, wipe away the excess with a paper towel. Likewise, if you are using petroleum jelly, use just enough to lightly cover the mold.
2. Melt small amounts of glycerin soap. Have your child place cubes of soap in the measuring cup. Put the cup in the microwave and set on high for 30 seconds. If some solid soap still remains, microwave in 10-second intervals until it is melted but not boiling.
3. Remove the melted soap from the microwave. An adult should do this, because the soap will be very hot.
4. Have your child add a drop or two of the liquid soap dye to the melted soap stir mixture with a chopstick or Popsicle stick.
5. Carefully pour the hot soap into the molds or cups about a third of the way to the top. Let the soap cool for about 20 minutes, then have your child place a plastic animal or trinket into the semi-hardened soap.
6. Repeat steps 2 and 3 to melt and color the remaining soap. Pour a second layer of soap into the mold, covering the plastic animal or trinket. Let it cool and harden for at least 2 hours. Once it's cool, turn the mold upside down and pop the soap out.

You won't need to remind your kids to wash their hands with this fun soap!