

# SoapHutch Plexiglas Soap Molds

## Plexiglas Soap Mold Instruction Sheet

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As all experienced soap makers know, there are many things that can affect our experience while making soap. It has been said that soap making is a metaphor for humanity as no two are ever the same ☺. Having said that, I can only tell you what works for us and to throw in some things our customers have shared with us over the years that have worked for them as well.

We strive to provide the best molds possible to enhance your soapmaking experience. Feel free to contact us if you have a question or problem with your new Plexiglas Soap Mold. In addition to the standard molds offered at [www.soaphutch.com](http://www.soaphutch.com) we can fabricate a mold to your exact specifications.

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Kind regards,  
Rich Bartko

## Flat Log Molds



First we place a piece of waxed paper on the bottom of the mold before screwing on the bottom plate. You can use freezer paper, if you like. I like a waxed paper as the width of the paper fits the mold perfectly. Some recipes make the waxed paper too wet and then you have to peel the paper off the bottom of the soap logs. For this reason, some prefer the freezer paper. The paper keeps the soap from sticking to the bottom plate and makes the unmolding process very easy.

Before you pour your soap into the mold for the first time, take a ruler and a permanent marker and measure up from the inside bottom of the mold to the height you want the log to be. Your log will be 3 ½" wide. The other dimension of your sliced bars will be determined by how deep you pour the soap into the chambers. If you want your bars to be 3.5" x 2.5", as I do, then mark the inside of the chamber at 2.5". This is how deep the soap will be poured to achieve this size log to cut into the desired bar size. I pour six pounds of soap (oil, water, lye combined) into each chamber to get the size log/bar I want. This will fill the chamber a little over the 2.5" mark insuring that once the bars are cured out, I have the size I like.

Discounting water as well as your recipe and the climate where you live and who knows what all, will effect how much your soap will shrink in the curing process. Trail and error and much testing can be done to figure out exactly how much soap to pour to achieve the exact bar size you want. Just take good notes and after a couple of batches, you will know exactly how to get what you want with this mold.

We leave our soap in the mold for at least 24 hours. Then we take off the bottom plate and allow the bottom of the logs to 'breathe' for a while. Then we turn the mold over face down on the table and press with our palm on the bottom of the logs. Applying pressure, slowly push the logs to the top of the chambers. Then we stand the mold on its side with the lip of the mold hanging off the edge of the table, and continue to push the logs out, being careful not to let them fall. Be careful when turning the mold over as sometimes the logs just fall out of the mold. This can happen if your recipe contains oils that produce a good hard bar and that hardens quickly.

We never insulate with any of our molds but some do. This seems to depend on your climate more than anything else.

Some of the things we have found that make unmolding easier are:

- Adding salt to the recipe.
- Using a recipe containing equal parts of olive, coconut and palm oil.
- Discounting water by 20 to 30%.
- Oiling the inside of the mold with mineral oil. Some swear by this. We don't do it.
- Putting the mold in the freezer over night. These molds are strong and can handle it.
- Warming a frozen mold full of soap with a blow dryer. This trick will work when nothing else will. We have never had to do this with the Flat Log Mold.

**The Dams** Your mold comes with three dams, one for each chamber. These fit loosely so you can work with them quickly if need be. One of soapmaking's great mysteries is how a batch you have made forever will sometimes be smaller or larger than usual when poured. Leaving a tad too much or too little. This is what happened to me one day and I quickly reached for something to push the soap in the mold to make it a little deeper so my log would not be too thin. This is how the dams were discovered. Since then I have found all sorts of great uses for them. I can make half a log if I am trying out a new scent or idea. I can even make one bar, if I wanted to. Simply push the soap to one end of the chamber and stuff whatever behind it to keep it in place as the soap sets up. Only a teaspoon or so will leak out, I promise! It really works. When unmolding, just twist off the dam from the log or remove with a knife. Remember to always remove soap from Plexiglas with a sliding motion instead of a pulling one.

NEVER clean the mold with any chemical cleaner such as Windex or ammonia based cleaners. We don't clean ours every time we use it, only about once a month. We just wash it with the soap that is still on the mold or some mild dish washing detergent.

Direct contact of the Plexiglas with some essential oils and all fragrance oils will cause the mold to melt or craze. The mold is made of acrylic plastic and is impervious to lye, but not fragrance. Make sure you have the fragrance incorporated into the soap well before pouring in the mold. Use of greater amounts than 1 oz. per pound are not recommended for any plastic mold and will void the manufacturer's warranty.

## Upright Log Molds



We like the paper trick so much on the Flat Log Mold that we use it on this one as well. A small piece of waxed paper between the bottom plate and the mold before attaching the bottom plate makes removal a breeze.

Oiling this mold with mineral oil the first few times it is used is a great idea. Mineral oil will not saponify and is the best choice to use as a mold release.

About five and a half pounds of soap (oil, water plus lye) will fill one chamber of the Upright Log Mold. We leave the soap in the mold for at least 24 hours. Then we take off the bottom plate and put the mold in the freezer overnight. Next morning, we take it out and warm the mold with a blow dryer. The logs push right out. Christine Arp discovered this tip and Bobby Jones says he could just kiss her for sharing that tip. LOL

Some of the things we have found that make unmolding from any mold easier are:

- Adding salt to the recipe.
- Using a recipe containing equal parts of olive, coconut and palm oil.
- Discounting water by 20 to 30%.
- Oiling the inside of the mold with mineral oil. Some swear by this. We don't do it.
- Putting the mold in the freezer over night. These molds are strong and can handle it.
- Warming a frozen mold full of soap with a blow dryer. This trick will work when nothing else will.

Please note that using air under pressure to unmold soap from a tube type mold is very dangerous. NEVER clean the mold with any chemical cleaner such as Windex or ammonia based cleaners. We don't clean ours every time we use it, only about once a month. We just wash it with the soap that is still on the mold or some mild dish washing detergent.

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## **Tray Mold & Dividers and Sampler Tray Mold**

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To make a slab of soap, just pour in your whole batch of soap. We leave our soap in the mold for 24 hours. Then we remove the bottom plate and turn the mold over to expose the bottom of the soap. After allowing the soap to 'breathe' for a while, we press the soap with our palms until it reaches the top of the mold. We stand the mold on its side and continue to push the slab of soap out.

When we use dividers, we simply place the dividers in the soap after it is poured into the mold. Unmold the slab with the dividers still imbedded in the soap slab. Then push out the individual bars or mini logs.

When unmolding the Sampler Tray Mold, follow the same procedure pushing out the bars or mini logs from each individual compartment. Remember that the dividers are a permanent part of the Sampler Tray Mold and cannot be removed.

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