

## **(Flea) Soap Making - Twelfth Grade**

### **OBJECTIVE**

To make homemade flea soap to be donated to local animal shelters or rescue groups.

### **ACTIVITY OVERVIEW**

Students will learn to make flea soap bars using the melt and pour method. They will make all natural flea soap for a local shelter or rescue.

### **MATERIALS**

- 2 pounds (32 ounces) of melt and pour soap base or pure vegetable glycerin bars
- 2 tsp. castor oil
- 1/2 tsp. vitamin E
- 2 tsp. cedar wood essential oil
- 2 tsp. lavender essential oil
- 2 tsp. eucalyptus essential oil
- A large heat resistant measuring cup (1 liter is usually fine)
- A Microwave or double boiler
- A sharp knife
- Wooden spoon for mixing the base
- Soap making mold(s)
- Instructions included in this lesson

### **DISCUSSION**

- Talk to students about making an alternative to store-bought flea soap for dogs. Explain that while many store-bought soaps have unwanted chemicals in them, they will be making an all-natural soap for a local shelter or rescue of their choice.

### **LESSON**

- Have the students choose one type of cruelty and create a poster that raises awareness.

### **POST DISCUSSION**

- Discuss the soap making process, the different essential oils that were used, and why they might repel fleas.

### **ACTIVITY**

- Suggest having a 'dog wash' to raise money for the shelter or rescue.

### **IMPORTANT!**

This soap **MUST NOT BE USED ON CATS**. Essential oils are **TOXIC TO CATS**.

## FLEA SOAP MAKING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut the solid soap base into small chunks or slivers for quicker melting. Always use a heat resistant glass measuring cup; like Pyrex.
2. Liquefy your base. Use a microwave or a double boiler. If you choose to use a microwave, melt the soap a little bit at a time to prevent it from boiling over.
3. Carefully stir the soap until all the chunks are completely gone, revealing a smooth consistency. **Caution:** Once the soap is melted, be extremely careful! The melt and pour soap base can get extremely hot.
4. Add essential and castor oils.
5. Pour the soap into the mold - quickly - before it re-solidifies.
6. Allow the soap to completely harden before you try to remove it from the mold. You can speed up this process by placing it in a refrigerator (if available).
7. When completely hardened, remove soap from mold.

**Important:** Be sure to wash all equipment by hand and not in a dishwasher. The excess soap that sticks to your equipment can cause too many suds and make it leak.