

How to Make Wax Dipped Bears



These bears are absolutely adorable. They are a very hot trend, and are selling like hotcakes. They are awesome gifts to give, and wonderful presents to receive. A waxed dipped bear is a perfect flameless companion to scent any area, regardless of its inhabitants. These are perfect decorative air fresheners for offices, bathrooms, bedrooms, pretty much anywhere you can think of. Plus, they are amazing additions to homemade gift baskets, or perfect housewarming gifts, even a new twist on fundraising events!

Please note: Any waxed dipped animal can only be placed on non-staining surfaces. In order to use them anywhere, you must place the finished wax dipped animal on either a metal or glass dish. This will provide a barrier so that the fragrance oil will not eat the surface of where the stuffed animal sits.

As with any project that you are going to start. It is vital to have all of the appropriate equipment ready before getting started.

Required Equipment:

Natures Garden wax (we recommend either our Pillar of Bliss or Granulated Wax-melted) You need to figure that one pound of wax will generally make one large waxed dipped animal, or two smaller sized wax dipped animals.

Natures Garden fragrance oil

Something to melt your wax in (Our suggestion would be an old crock pot, presto pot, or something that does not overheat and you can use as your melting source again and again)

A large toothed comb/ pick (a fork will work as well)

Stuffed Bear - although jointed stuffed animals work best, any stuffed animal will do. Another tip for stuffed animal selecting is that longer haired animals work best from the fluffing aspect.



Kitchen Tongs

Insulated Rubber Gloves

Cooking Sheet-not Teflon coated (wax will stick to this)

A glass or metal saucer or plate

Thermometer

Wax paper

Stainless Steel stirring utensil

Spectrum color dye- We suggest coloring your wax for wax dipped bears only if the stuffed animals are medium to a darker color. The natural look of the completed project is that of frost, on colored bears. It is completely your choice as to whether you want to color your wax or not. Waxed dipped bears are loved and purchased both ways. If you choose to color, you will want to match the color to that of the stuffed animal. If the stuffed animal is white or light colored, dyeing your wax is not necessary.

Before we get started, it is very important to state that anything that fragranced wax will be in or touch can NEVER be used again for food cooking purposes.



Also, if your stuffed animal has any clothing, ribbons, bows, or decorative items that can be removed, you must remove them prior to dipping. All cute decorative additions may be added after the wax dipped stuffed animal has been completely dried. You do not want to risk getting any wax on any of your stuffed animal decorations. The best stuffed animals to use for wax dipping are plain ones!

1. Once you have all of your equipment ready, the first step to the melting process is to gather the appropriate amount of wax that you are going to use. Set any unused wax aside.

2. The next step is to melt the wax. The best way to melt your wax is using an old crock pot, presto pot, or something large enough to dip your bear in. Please note again, once you use this for fragranced wax, you CANNOT use this container again for cooking purposes. It is now committed to being your wax melter. Place your wax into the melter. The wax will shortly begin to melt. Never leave melting wax unattended. You will want to melt your wax to 170-190 degrees Fahrenheit. You will want to continuously check the temperature of your wax by using your thermometer. We suggest that you use a candy thermometer for the most accurate readings. You will want to make sure that you are stirring generously while the wax is melting. Doing this will ensure that all of the wax will be at the same temperature. This will also prevent any of the wax from burning on the bottom of your melter. Do not let the wax go above 200 degrees Fahrenheit. This will burn the wax, and may misshape the stuffed animal during the dipping process.

3. Once the wax is completely melted, and also at the right temperature, it is now time to color (if you are choosing to do so) and fragrance your melted wax.

a. To color the wax using your Spectrum Color dye is really easy. Just add the amount of color to wax using drops until you match that of the stuffed animal. Since there is no wick to clog, as with candles, you can achieve even the darkest of colors. Stir this in first.

b. The rule of thumb for fragrance is 1 -1 ½ ounces of fragrance oil to one pound of wax. Add the amount you choose, and stir generously. This is the step when the scent molecules adhere to the wax. Since you really want your wax dipped bear to have a strong cold scent throw, the 1 ½ ounces of fragrance oil works best.

4. You want to make sure that all of your wax is completely mixed with the liquid dye and the fragrance oil. Because you will be dipping the stuffed animal into this wax, you want to guarantee that when the wax dries, it will all be colored and scented. Be very careful when mixing your wax. It is a hot liquid and can cause severe burns. Stir generously, not sloppily.

5. We are almost ready to dip the stuffed animals-get excited! However, prior to the dipping process, lay out some wax paper. You will want to set the wax dipped animal on this while you are putting on your insulated rubber gloves.

6. Using your tongs, pick up the stuffed animal. Make sure it is securely in your tong grasp and dip it slowly into the wax. We suggest doing it in this manner because this allows the air to escape as the wax seeps in. You may need to roll the stuffed animal over to ensure that you are waxing every inch of the stuffed animal. As long as you have a nice grip on the tongs holding the bear, this will not be a problem. If you should accidentally lose control of the tongs, and the stuffed animal becomes emerged in the wax, using the tongs, quickly pull the stuffed animal out. Never attempt to do this by hand. The dipping process should only be done using tongs. You risk serious burns if you do not have the proper equipment!

7. Once the stuffed animal has been dipped, it is time to squeeze out the excess wax. Set your wax dipped stuffed animal on the wax paper. Set down the tongs. Put your insulated rubber gloves on. It is very important that your gloves are insulated. This will prevent any severe burns from the hot liquid wax! Gently pick up your wax dipped stuffed animal. Squeeze out the excess wax over your melting source. Doing this will reduce your scented wax waste. Do not worry about the look of the stuffed animal. We will prep the hair of the stuffed animal using a comb (or fork) in the next step.

8. Yeah, now is the time to prep and fluff. Be prepared, there is a time window for this step. Using a large toothed comb or fork, gently fluff the hair of the waxed dipped animal. This process is the key to your oh so adorable stuffed animal. Please remember, once the wax hardens, this will be the look of the stuffed animals "fur". Move quickly. Make sure that you comb or fork the entire stuffed animal. Fluff it to the effect that you want. Once the wax hardens, and you try to fluff the fur, you will get what is called dandruff. The dandruff is actually crumbled wax pieces. Do not be tempted to keep fluffing once this occurs, it will affect the appearance of your end product. When you are finished fluffing, set the wax dipped stuffed animal back onto the wax paper.

9. If you do fluff too long, and have a considerable amount of dandruff, the solution is easy. Using a hair dryer (on a low setting), simply reheat the areas. This will remelt the scented wax. Also, if you are looking for a softer feel of your wax dipped animal, this step will also help you accomplish that.

10. Next, let your wax dipped animal cool to the touch.



11. Now it is time to pose your stuffed animal. Maybe you want to turn its head, or place it in a cute seated position. This step is all up to you.

12. Once your wax dipped animal is prepped and posed, gently move the animal onto a metal or glass plate. Never set the wax dipped animals on a wood surface, the fragrance used to scent the wax will eat through the surface. Allow the wax dipped stuffed animal to completely dry. This should take about 2 hours.

13. Now you are free to decorate.

Decoration and Presentation



Now is the time to be creative and really enjoy what you do! You can add almost anything to your waxed dipped animal to make it cute and fun. **Mica** is a great way to jazz up your new waxed buddy. Also, a little **ribbon** or **bow** goes a long way (especially when you use holiday color to help you wax dipped animal fit the theme).

If you are choosing to dress your wax stuffed animals, the clothing with snaps or ties in the back are easiest to work with. This is all done after the wax dipped bear is completely dried. If you do not want to go the route of clothing, a hot glue gun works wonders, allowing you to add items such as trinkets, buttons, fake flowers, etc. Just let your imagination run wild and let your creation soar.

It is always nice to somehow work a **small card** with a simple saying, stuffed animal scent, and rescenting instructions somewhere on the bear. A simple **hole punch** and decorative ribbon will solve this problem.

When storing these bears, you will want to trap the scent in as soon as the wax hardens and dries. The best way to do this is to carefully place the bear (positioned on the metal or glass saucer) in a cellophane bag. Close the bag, and seal it tight with a ribbon or bow. Doing this will ensure that the scent stays with the wax dipped animal until it is opened by the customer or receiver of the gift.

Some additional notes on wax dipped bears.

The most commonly used sized for wax dipping stuffed animals is between 6 - 10 inches in height (head to tail). If you are considering using white or light pastel colored stuffed animals, please note that some fragrance oils that are darker in nature may discolor them. If you are going to use a white or light pastel colored stuffed animal, try to use fragrance oils that are clear or very light in color.

Obviously, the better the quality of the stuffed animal, the better it will hold up in the hot wax, aka the melting process.

On average, these bears sell for \$15.00- \$30.00 on the market. This is of course based on several factors such as your target selling area, the quality of the stuffed animal used, and the look of the finished product-decorations and all. Generally, the cost to you is only \$4- \$5.

Another great product besides the wax dipped animals to add to your line is offering a refresher oil for the wax dipped animals. It is advised that you do warn your customers that the wax dipped animals will lose scent over time. But, by offering a refresher oil, they can rescent them as they notice their scent fading (a general rule is about once a month). This is a very easy product to make. It is simply 2 parts of DPG to one part fragrance oil in a spray bottle. Then, the process of rescenting is fairly easy, while reheating the wax dipped animal with a hair dryer (held 6-12 inches away on a low heat setting) for one minute, lightly spray the entire animal. Do not drench, just a light coating will do.

There is also another option to extra scenting your wax dipped animal. In order to do this, you must make sure that the animal that you are planning to use is NOT stuffed with Styrofoam balls, or any type of Styrofoam.

Using an inexpensive syringe, you can inject the stuffed animal with the scented wax to provide an extra long lasting scent. You will want to do this while the wax is still in liquid form. Be careful, the wax may still be very hot!

These wax dipped animals are not toys. They should not be played with.

These wax dipped animals are not candles. Do not light them on fire.

There have been a few cases where when using an older stuffed animal, the stitching gives out, and the stuffed animal falls apart in the wax. If this happens, do not worry. All you need to do is strain the wax using a metal strainer. Repeat this step until all of the animal stuffing and parts are removed from the wax. Then start over using another stuffed animal.



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