

AMBER FOSSIL SOAP with Marigold Haske

Amber Fossil Soap

Amber comes from tree resin that has hardened and fossilized over time. Insects often get trapped inside the sticky resin and become preserved forever as fascinating and beautiful fossils. This project replicates amber fossils. Kids also have fun handling the translucent soap and holding it up to the light to look at the plastic insect trapped inside.

Please note: This project requires melting down glycerin soap, which can very hot and cause burns on skin. If you want to do this project with kids, I recommend doing it as a demonstration and not a hands-on project. — [Marigold Haske](#)

Activity Time: 15 minutes + drying time

What You Need

- Clear glycerin soap
- Soap dye: yellow, red
- Plastic insects
- Small microwave-safe disposable plastic containers
- Craft stick



CAUTION: Melted soap can get extremely hot and cause burns on skin. Only an adult should handle the melted soap. Supervise children at all times during this project.

How to Make It

Use a knife to cut up the block of clear glycerin soap into smaller pieces.



Fill a small microwave-safe disposable plastic container with the soap pieces. Microwave on high for 20-30 seconds. The soap should be mostly melted with a few chunks still in it.



Carefully remove from the microwave using two hands. Stir with a craft stick to finish melting (or mostly finish melting—it's OK if small chunks remain) the soap.



Add 2-3 drops of yellow soap dye and stir. Add 1 drop of red soap dye and swirl once or twice, allowing color to remain streaked and not fully mixed.



Carefully submerge a plastic insect into the melted soap. Remember this is bottom-side up, so you may want to place the insect in upside-down. Allow to cool completely (45 min to an hour for about 4 ounces). Release the soap by pressing the container around the sides to loosen and then press your thumbs into the bottom to pop it out. Use a damp paper towel to rub down any rough edges.



Turn the soap so that it is flat side down and observe the insect trapped in the amber-colored soap!



Marigold Haske is the designer, maker, and author behind the craft blog [Hideous! Dreadful! Stinky!](#) where she offers functional crafts for the home and family. Chock-full of tutorials, inspiration, sew-alongs and irreverent humor for the DIY mama, Marigold writes for an ever-growing community of artful souls who embrace a fun, quirky, handmade life. She lives, works and plays in Charlottesville, Virginia, with her charming husband and their two exceptionally silly sons, Huck and Milo.



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