

# Soap Impressions

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## How to Make a Great Impression

- 1) To get the best impression, be sure to cut your bars evenly with as flat a surface as possible. Dips and waves will give you an uneven impression.
- 2) Let your soap “breathe” for a day or two after cutting before stamping it. Your soap should be somewhat soft, but dry enough to take the impression well, and release easily. Depending on your recipe and climate, stamping your soap within the first week after cutting usually gives the best results.
- 3) Position the stamp on your soap, and give it a couple of easy taps using a hammer or mallet. Practice a couple of times first on a scrap piece of soap and you’ll soon get a feel for how much pressure is needed. You may also be able to make an impression in your soap by just pressing the stamp into the soap with your hands.

## Melt & Pour Soap

- 1) Melt & Pour soap can get very hard and may be more difficult to stamp than cold (or hot) process soaps. To make sure that you can still easily stamp your M&P soaps, take them out of the molds as soon as possible and stamp them while the soap is still somewhat soft. You may have to use just a few more taps with a mallet to get a good image stamped on the soap.
- 2) If you are not going to be able to stamp your soaps soon after unmolding them, try adding just a bit of distilled water (1-2 oz. per pound of soap) to the soap base before you pour it into the molds. This will keep the soap soft a bit longer and will give you more time to stamp. After stamping, just age the bars for a few days and the excess water will evaporate.

## Care & Maintenance

After use, rinse your stamp under running water and using a soft brush, (a toothbrush works well) scrub off any soap particles that might remain. Rinse again and dry the stamp thoroughly before storing it.

The copper used for your stamp is a relatively non-reactive metal. Since the saponification reaction is virtually complete by the time the stamp is being used, there is little chance of lye eating the metal. However, keep in mind that these stamps are not guaranteed to withstand contact with lye heavy soap or a strong lye solution. It’s always a good idea to check the pH of your soap before stamping it, both for the sake of your stamp AND your skin.