

Laundry Manual

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CHAPTER X.

Soap Making.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS.

Preparation of Fat.—Fresh fat or oil may be used for making soap; but fat left from frying is equally good and more economical for ordinary soap. If cooking fat is used, it should be clarified by boiling in it several pieces of raw potato. The scum which rises should be taken off and the fat strained through cheese cloth. It is then ready for soap. For toilet soaps, fresh oil and fat should be used.

Mixing of Soap.—Dissolve lye in cold water and set aside to cool. The lye mixture should be stirred with a stick. Lye irritates the hands; hence it is better to protect them by putting paper bags over them.

If borax and ammonia are used, add them to the lye mixture before adding the fat. Perfumery is added just as the soap thickens.

All soap mixtures should stand until of the consistency of honey, and then be moulded.

Moulding of Soap.—A small quantity of soap may be moulded in an agate pan, which should be wet before pouring in the soap mixture. Larger quantities are cared for more easily by pouring the mixture into a wooden box. In this case, line the box with several thicknesses of yellow paper, greasing the top layer on the side next the soap.

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Individual round cakes may be formed by using agate gem pans for moulds.

Agate ware or wooden utensils should be used in the mixing and moulding of soap, as the lye will eat the tin and so ruin a good pan.

All soap should stand in a moderately warm temperature until hard, and then may be cut into cakes.

It is more economical to dry the soap by spreading it on paper in a warm room.

SOAP No. I.

5 lbs. clarified fat, 1 can best lye,
1½ qts. cold water, 1½ tablespoons borax,
 ½ cup ammonia.

SOAP No. II.

5½ lbs. clarified fat, 3½ pts. cold water,
 1 can lye.

TOILET SOAP.

1 lb. cotton seed oil, 10 tablespoons lye,
⅔ lb. white lard, 1¾ cup cold water,
5 drops of lavender and oil of geranium.