

# Risk Assessment Soap Making

## Activity

Soap making class (small-group workshop). Typical steps may include measuring ingredients, melting soap base (melt-and-pour) adding fragrance/colour, pouring into moulds, cutting/finishing, and packaging.

## Location

Indoor venue with sturdy tables, good ventilation, access to handwashing, and clear fire exits.

## People at risk

Participants (including pregnant attendees), instructor/host, venue staff, visitors.

## Key hazards, risks, and controls

**Hot liquids and heated equipment (burns/scalds)** Risks: Burns from melted soap base, hot oils, hot water baths, microwaves/hot plates.

### Controls:

Use thermostatically controlled hot plates/water baths where possible.

Demonstrate safe heating and pouring; use heat-resistant jugs and stable trays.

Designate a “hot zone” and keep walkways clear.

Staff supervise heating steps; do not leave heating unattended.

Immediate cool running water treatment for burns.

**Fragrance oils, essential oils, colourants (irritation, sensitisation, asthma triggers)** Risks: Skin irritation, allergic reaction, headaches/nausea from strong scents.

### Controls:

Use cosmetic-grade materials

Pre-measure fragrances/colourants where possible; keep lids on when not in use.

Ask participants to declare allergies/asthma/pregnancy; offer fragrance-free option.

Ensure good ventilation; provide breaks and access to fresh air.

**Spills and slip/trip hazards** Risks: Slips from oils/soap batter; trips over bags/cables/equipment.

### Controls:

Keep floors and walkways clear; bags stored under tables.

Tape down cables; keep equipment central and stable.

Clean spills immediately; cordon area until safe.

**Electrical safety (hot plates, stick blenders, microwaves)** Risks: Electric shock, burns, fire from faulty equipment or liquid near sockets.

### Controls:

PAT-tested equipment (or venue equivalent checks); visual inspection before use.

Keep liquids away from sockets; use RCD protection where possible.

Do not overload extension leads; use appropriate rated cables.

Staff-only access to plugs; switch off/unplug when not in use.

**Participant behaviour and supervision** Risks: Distraction/horseplay leading to spills, burns, or chemical exposure.

### Controls:

Safety briefing at start; clear rules (no running, remain at stations during hot/chemical steps).

Maintain appropriate instructor-to-participant ratio.

Under-18s only with guardian consent and close supervision (or exclude for lye-based classes).

**Waste handling and cleanup (chemical residues)** Risks: Skin contact during cleanup; damage to surfaces; improper disposal.

### Controls:

Provide dedicated, labelled waste containers and paper towels.

Protect tables with disposable coverings; wipe down and wash equipment safely.

## Emergency procedures

Chemical splash (eyes/skin): Immediately flush with running water for at least 15–20 minutes; remove contaminated clothing/jewellery; seek medical help for eye exposure or significant burns.

Burns (heat): Cool under running water for at least 20 minutes; cover with sterile dressing; seek medical help if severe.

Allergic reaction/asthma: Stop exposure, move to fresh air, follow participant’s care plan (e.g., inhaler/auto-injector if provided), call emergency services if symptoms escalate.

Fire/electrical incident: Isolate power/heat if safe, raise alarm, evacuate via nearest exit, assemble at venue muster point; call emergency services.

Spill: Cordon area, clean immediately using spill kit; dispose of waste safely.

## Residual risk rating

With controls in place:

Melt-and-pour: Low to Medium (mainly hot liquids, slips, minor cuts).