

From: [Zohar Lavy](#)
To: [Lavy, Zohar \[US-US\]](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: From Zo..Thank Earth 12/10/23 Soap Session
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 3:35:45 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Zohar Lavy** <thankearth1@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Dec 17, 2023, 8:46 PM
Subject: From Zo..Thank Earth 12/10/23 Soap Session
To: <zohar.lavy1@gmail.com>

Hi!

The buckets of oil and lye have been shaken, rocked, spun, twirled, and swirled and out came 45 lbs of soap. What a great time and awesome group! The studio never smelled so good. I hope you all took away some knowledge, have an additional spark of interest, and will have a wonderful batch of soap as a bonus.

If your interested in making soap again (more hands on next time so everyone experiences and gets guided through each step), we will hold another session in the spring. I think I have a solution for making the session stay within 3 hours (or less) for next time.

For now, here are some takeaways:

Curing:

- Now it's time to cure! For this batch, it looks like a minimum of 2 weeks but more likely 3 to 4 weeks. You will know they are done when they are hard enough to grab without making an indentation. I actually used mine for the first time today (1 week after). It felt great and smelled good but I think I can go for another week even though I had about 4-5 tablespoons of salt in mine. Those without salt may need to take this batch to 3 weeks cure.

- keep your cut bars of soap somewhere in the house that is not too hot or too cold. Room temp with a little bit of air circulation is best.

Questions:

A couple of questions answered..

- What actually is happening during curing?..We cure to allow for alteration of chemical and physical properties. It completes saponification (within the first 24 hours), allows for water evaporation (triggering precipitation/salting out where basically the less soluble fatty acid salts amalgamate into more solid soap crystals), and allows for crystallization.

- What is in the fumes created by the exothermic reaction between Lye and water?.. $\text{NaOH(s)} + \text{H}_2\text{O(l)} \Rightarrow \text{Na}^+ + \text{OH}^- + \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{HEAT}$..what we see evaporating from that reaction is hydroxide (dissociated from the NaOH) mixed with water vapor (therefore basically caustic/high pH water vapor). When handling Lye, you must always use caution and always use safety gear (gloves, eye protection, etc.) to not let it get on skin or fumes to be inhaled (always do outside) Make sure to go slow to prevent splashing.

I hope you all have great holiday season! Update for January will be sent out shortly.

Thank Earth for You!

- Zo