

# SUCCULENT CANDLES

## cactus flower and jade

Channel the warmer days of spring with these simple, adorable succulent candles. Add as a special spring offering to your candle line, gift one to brighten someone's day, or add to your personal home decor; however you imagine using them, this is a fun project you don't want to skip.

In this tutorial you'll learn the basic skills for making beeswax embeds and applying them to a candle top. Once you've mastered these skills, the possibilities are endless. Create

### MATERIALS:

Golden Brands 464 Soy Wax 1 lb Bag  
ECO 10 6" Pretabbed Wick 12 pc Bag  
Mini Tumbler 12 pc Case  
ECO 10 6" Pretabbed Wick 12 pc Bag  
Cactus Flower and Jade 1 oz Bottle  
Wick Stickers Pro 120 pc Pack  
Wick Bar 12 pc Bag  
5 Inch Digital Thermometer  
Forest Green Dye Block  
Warning Labels 2 Inch 100 pc Roll  
Candle and Soap Scale  
Pouring Pitcher

### ADDITIONAL ITEMS NEEDED:

Cactus and succulent molds  
Paper towels  
Votive wick pin or bamboo skewer  
Paring knife or cheese grater  
Cutting board  
Heat gun or hair dryer  
Metal spatula or silicone spatula  
Rubbing alcohol

## DIRECTIONS

*Notes: We tested multiple natural waxes for the embeds and found that beeswax was the best option for the detailed 3-D silicone molds. If you're looking for a paraffin option, we'd suggest a wax like IGI 4625. The embeds tested with a soy and paraffin blend didn't turn out very well.*

### PART 1: MAKE THE SUCCULENT

*The amount of wax is based on the particular silicone mold we used for this tutorial. Different molds may require a different amount of wax. Beeswax begins to cool quickly so it doesn't hurt to heat up a little more wax than needed to avoid having to reheat between pours*

#### Step 1: Weigh and Melt Wax

Place the pouring pitcher on your digital scale and tare the weight. Weigh 3 oz. of the White Beeswax pellets in the pouring pitcher. Begin to melt the wax with a double boiler or on a hot plate.



## Step 2: Prepare Dye Block

While the wax pellets are melting, prepare your Forest Green dye block. The small amount of wax we're using doesn't need much to achieve a bold green color. Use a paring knife or a cheese grater to scrape off some of the color from the dye block. You will only need a small, flat pile of dye block shavings that is about the size of a dime.

*Note: Dye blocks can stain your work surface so be sure to protect it with wax paper, use an old cutting board, or work your shavings directly into a bowl.*

We chose to not fragrance our embeds since the wax will remain heated for an extended period of time. If you notice the embeds smelling too strongly of dye or natural beeswax, you can add .2 oz of fragrance oil when the wax has reached 185°F. This will prevent the embed smell from overpowering the candle base.

## Step 3: Add Dye Block

When the wax is thoroughly melted, add your dye shavings to the wax and stir well.

**PRO TIP:** It's difficult to weigh such a small amount of dye block. Check your wax color by pouring a little bit of the colored wax into a small tart mold or paper cup and placing it in the freezer for 30 seconds.

Carefully pour the wax into your silicone molds. Fill each cavity to the top of each mold without going over.

## Step 4: Unmold the Embed

Allow the wax to cool for 20–30 minutes. The embed will unmold the easiest if the wax is slightly warm to the touch, but not hot. Carefully remove the embed from the mold paying close attention to all of the thin petals.

**PRO TIP:** You will have to use a very sharp knife to score the sides of the 3-D silicone molds to prevent breaking when unmolding the embeds. The molds should be thick enough to stay sealed for subsequent pours or you can use a thick rubber band around the outside to hold the mold tight for your next pour.

Before the embed is completely cooled, gently poke a hole in the center for the wick using a wick pin or bamboo skewer. Set aside to cool completely.

## PART 2: MAKE THE BASE

### Step 1: Weigh and Melt Wax

Place the pouring pitcher on your digital scale and tare the weight. Weigh 13 oz. of the AAK 464 soy wax flakes in the pouring pitcher. Begin to melt the wax with a double boiler or on a hot plate.

*Note: The amount of wax can vary depending on how high you want your succulent to sit and the silicone mold you use. We used about 3.25 oz. for each mini tumbler.*

### Step 2: Prepare the Candle Jars

While you're waiting for the soy wax to melt, you can begin to prep your Mini Tumbler candle jars.

To determine the wax fill line, you need to decide how tall you want your embed to sit in the jar. Hold the embed up to the jar at the preferred height and mark where the base of the embed sits.

*Note: If you plan to use a lid for your chosen container, be sure to position your embed so that it can safely fit under the lid.*

Wipe out each jar with a small amount of isopropyl alcohol and a clean paper towel. Using a wick sticker, center one Eco 10 wick in each jar.

### **Step 3: Weigh and Add the Fragrance Oil**

In a paper cup, or glass beaker, weigh .9 oz of the Cactus Flower and Jade Fragrance Oil, which is about a 7% fragrance load. You can adjust up or down to your preference.

Once your wax has reached 185°F, add the fragrance oil. Stir gently for 2 minutes to ensure that the oil is fully incorporated with the wax.

Pour the wax into the Mini Tumblers when the wax cools to 150°F. Fill each tumbler to the fill line you identified in Step 2. Secure wick with a wick bar and allow your candles to start cooling.

## **PART 3: ASSEMBLY TIME**

*Note: This part will require a little bit of candle babysitting to ensure the candle doesn't cool too much.*

### **Step 1: Place the Embed**

After you pour your candle bases, let the candle begin to cool naturally, but not fully. Be sure to keep an eye on your candle so it doesn't cool too much. The very top layer of the wax should still be liquid while the cooled wax below is able to support the weight of the embed. If the wax has started to form a skin, use the heat gun to quickly liquify the wax.

Thread the wick through the embed and gently press the embed into place, allowing it to sink slightly into the wax. This will slightly displace the wax, so be careful not to push too hard or your candle surface will not be smooth. Repeat this process with the remaining embeds.

## **PART 4: FINISH AND ENJOY**

Allow the candles to cool overnight or for at least 8 hours. Trim the wick to ¼"–½" and add a warning label to the bottom.

Did you make it? Show off your succulent candles, and all your handmade creations, with the CandleScience community by tagging us @CandleScience and using the #CandleScientist hashtag on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. We may feature you in our Stories or on our website!