

DIY beeswax and vegan wax wrap instructions



These instructions work best with a beeswax wrap or vegan wax blend bar. You can purchase one at NoTraceShop.com/beeswaxwraps.

Or, you can create your own blend with beeswax or candelilla wax, pine gum rosin, and a little jojoba & coconut oil. Note that the more rosin you use, the stickier it will be! I recommend using a ratio of at least 25% of the total weight equal to rosin.

With a No Trace wax bar, you can make wax wraps that CLING and MOLD PERFECTLY. It's the perfect blend of wax, coconut & jojoba oil, and pine gum rosin (sap) to give you a perfectly sticky and mold-able wrap that will last you at least a year!

There are 2 ways to make wax wraps:

1. Make them with an iron, a grater, and two pieces of baking paper.
2. Make them with an oven-safe bowl or pot, a brush, a baking sheet, and your oven. You can use baking paper if you want to protect your baking sheet from the wax.

You can also use your wax bar to rejuvenate old wraps if the blend has worn off. Follow the same instructions below with your old wrap.

Try getting any extra tools you need (grater, pot/bowl, baking sheet) from a thrift store to be more green and save on cost. Once you start using these tools for wax wraps, they're pretty difficult to clean. You'll probably want to designate these tools for making wax wraps only.

At No Trace, we make wraps the second way (pot and oven). It's more efficient if you're making a lot, but it requires a few more tools (brush, pot/bowl, baking sheet). If you think you'll want to make a lot of these, you might want to do it with your oven. But both ways work great!

Wear an apron or older clothes in case you get wax on yourself. If you work slowly and carefully, you're less likely to have small splatters of wax. You may want a little ventilation in your space, although if the temperatures are right, you won't have many fumes or odors. There's a chance that bees will be attracted to the smell of the wax and pine sap, so you may want a screen in place if you have an open window or door.

SAFETY FIRST!

A note about SAFETY! **Wax is flammable** so you NEVER want to expose it directly to flame and you NEVER want to heat it above about 215 degrees Fahrenheit.

Gather your supplies

Here's what you'll need:

1. Fabric cut to the wax wrap size. Organic cotton is great, or any lightweight quilting cotton. You don't want to use heavy material like canvas or denim. You also don't want to use any knit or stretchy fabric.
2. A wax bar OR your own blend of beeswax, rosin, coconut & jojoba oil.
3. A piece of twine or a laundry rack to hang and dry your wrap on.

Plus, if you do the ironing method:

1. An iron.
2. Baking paper.
3. A grater.

Or,

If you do the oven method:

1. An oven-safe bowl or pot.
2. A brush.
3. A baking sheet.
4. Optional: baking paper to protect the sheet.

The iron method

1. Cover your ironing board with an old towel.
2. Place a piece of baking paper on top of the towel, then your fabric on top of that.
3. Use the grater to grate the wax bar over the fabric, lighting coating the entire piece of fabric with small shreds of wax blend. Or, spread your own blend ingredients over the fabric.
4. Place the second piece of baking paper over the fabric and wax shreds. The fabric should be completely covered on both sides by baking paper.
5. With your iron on high and steam OFF, iron on top of the baking paper all around the fabric. Make sure that all of the wax shreds get melted into the fabric.
6. When you think you're done, take a look at your wrap to see if it has wax melted all across. It'll make the fabric appear damp. Dry areas mean you missed a spot. You can shred more wax blend on any dry spots and repeat the ironing process.
7. Once the entire piece of fabric is coated with melted wax mixture, carefully pick it up and hang it to dry over a piece of twine or on a rack.
8. It should dry within minutes. Then you're done!

The oven method

1. Turn your oven on 200 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Place your oven-safe bowl or pot in a pot of water to create a double-boiler. Melting this way is safer than placing your pot directly on a burner, but you can also put it on a burner on a very low heat.
3. Place the wax blend/ingredients into the bowl or pot and let it melt with the heat on medium. Keep an eye on it as it melts to make sure it doesn't overheat and begin to smoke. Turn off the heat if you see smoke.
4. Place your fabric onto a baking sheet with or without baking paper.
5. Once the wax blend has fully melted, dip just a very small end of your brush into the blend and then brush the mixture onto the fabric, making sure to fully coat the fabric with a very light coating of blend.
6. Place the baking sheet into the oven for a few minutes.
7. Pull it out of the oven and use your brush to make sure all areas of the fabric have been coated. You can add a little more wax if you need to.
8. Carefully pick up the wrap from the baking sheet and hang it to dry.
9. It should dry within minutes. Then you're done!

To care for your wraps

The best way to care for your wraps is to handwash them in cool water with gentle soap. Often they'll just need a wipe with a clean sponge or dish towel. Let them air dry, then fold and store out of sun and away from heat.

Don't use your wraps in the microwave or oven. Don't put them in the dishwasher. Don't let them sit in direct sunlight for long. Heat will cause the blend to melt out of the fabric.

Your wraps should last at least a year.

Troubleshooting Tips

- **If your wax wrap looks really textured and not smooth at all...**
 - Put it back on the baking sheet, back in the oven for a few minutes until it's re-melted
 - Take it out of the oven and pull it off the baking sheet **quickly**.
 - If you feel the wrap starting to stick to the baking sheet before you pull it off, that means it's starting to dry on the baking sheet, instead of on the string. You need to remove it more quickly to avoid the texture.
 - If you used an iron, run the iron over the paper again where you see texture, then quickly remove the wax wrap from in between the baking paper.
 - You can work on repairing one small section at a time if the wrap is cooling too quickly – only heat a small area you'd like to improve
- **If you see any dry spots on your wax wrap...**
 - Put your wrap back on your baking sheet.
 - Apply more wax blend to the dry spot.
 - Put the wrap back in the oven to fully melt again, or iron the wrap again between baking paper.
 - Hang it to dry once you've finished covering dry spots
- **If you have really thick areas of wax blend on your wax wrap...**
 - Put it back on the baking sheet, back in the oven.
 - You can get the wax off by spreading it around with your paintbrush – redistribute the excess across your wrap. OR you can use a smaller piece of fabric to soak up the excess wax blend. Use leftover wax blend to fully cover the smaller piece of fabric and make it into another, smaller wrap.
 - With an iron, place it back between the baking paper, iron it again, and use a smaller piece of fabric to absorb the excess OR use pressure from the iron to move the excess off the wax wrap and onto the baking paper
- **If your wax wrap stuck to itself while drying...**
 - Carefully pull it apart and place it back on the baking sheet and back in the oven.
 - Pull it out of the oven once it fully melted again.
 - Or, with the iron, carefully re-melt the blend on the wax wrap (in between the baking paper). Pay particular attention to the area that stuck to itself to smooth it out.
 - Hang it again very carefully so that it isn't touching itself.

Want more help making wax wraps?

Head to NoTraceShop.com/courses & sign up for my online DIY wax wrap workshop.

You get lifetime access to the course. It's full of clear, step-by-step videos and even more handouts.

Just head to NoTraceShop.com/courses to sign up!

Want more wax bars? Head to NoTraceShop.com/beeswaxwraps to shop

Any questions? Please email contactus@notraceshop.com!