

COLORING HOT PROCESS (HP) CROCKPOT SOAP

BY LORI NOVA ENDRES (FROM COLORING W/CONFIDENCE)



Since [Hot Process \(HP\) Soap](#) goes through additional heating, coloring HP soap is more challenging than coloring CP soap. There are 2 options for when to add color: 1) at a light trace, before the cook (so you can stick-blend), or 2) after the soap has cooked. Some are better added pre-cook, others post-cook, at the mashed potato stage. Experimentation & note keeping are necessary to get the color you desire. NOTE: You may find different results with different methods of HP.

When adding POWDERED COLORS (dyes, oxides, lakes, etc.), mix color into about a half ounce of distilled water. I do this in a glass shot glass & stir with a wooden craft stick. This will help decrease the chance of getting lumps/speckles (since it can be difficult to blend powdered ingredients well). Whether you add before the cook (at trace with stick blender) or after the cook, stir well & quickly to incorporate.

- **CLAYS:** I have used clays to color HP soap naturally with really great results. I use between 1/2 tsp. and 1/2 Tablespoon per pound of fat/oil – usually added PRE-COOK so they mix in thoroughly with a stick blender. Commonly available clay colors are: Red Moroccan (peach to brick red), French Green (beige/very light green), Yellow, Rose and Pink. Always buy only cosmetic-grade clays (NOT those made for ceramics). These can be found at many of the suppliers in this resource & at some local health food stores.
- **DYES:** (F)ood, (D)rug & (C)osmetic or D&C colors work very well for HP soap only if you add them POST-COOK (so they don't react with the lye) & mix them in thoroughly. Good for more vivid colors than you can get with herbs/clays/oxides. Dyes are not natural, but they are commonly used to color food, cosmetics & soap.
- **HERBS & SPICES:** Powdered herbs & spices can be added directly to the soap and do not need to be mixed with water or oil (unless you have problems with specking and/or clumping). Simply add dry herb powders as early in the process & stick blend well for even distribution. Most spices like cinnamon & turmeric can be added before the cook, some will work better added after the cook.
- **ULTRAMARINES (pigments):** In my experience, these DO NOT WORK in Crockpot HP! These color additives are not heat stable, which means they'll fade when added before cooking. You can *try* to add post-cook, but there is still heat present & my experience is that they fade considerably and are difficult to mix in.
- **OXIDES (pigments):** These are inorganic, *supposedly* heat stable color additives that come in black, brown, yellow, green, red, orange & white. Like the ultramarines, oxides have proven problematic for me in Crockpot HP (I'm not convinced these are all heat stable). For example, I haven't been able to get even a medium shade of color with orange oxide. I HAVE had success with titanium dioxide (white) when mixing directly into the lye water or just after combining oils and water and stick blended (PRE-COOK). If you experiment more with oxides in HP soap, keep good notes & let me know your successes!

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