

## **HOW TO USE LATEX MOULDS FOR CASTING WAX CANDLES**

All Aldax latex rubber moulds may be used for candles, however we do make a specific range of candle moulds that are made slightly thicker than the rest to give longer life. Wax is a beautiful product to work with, in that if you don't like the finished item, you simply remelt the wax and use it again.

Candles with rectangular shapes are better made with metal or a suitable plastic to retain the sharp edges that would be softened in a rubber mould. Candles are usually coloured with blocks of wax containing dissolved concentrated colour. However if you intend making your candles for resale it is preferable and more economic to purchase the actual wax soluble powder colour. Opacifiers or Titanium Dioxide pigment are used for white candles.

A mould release is suggested if you wish to use your latex moulds for making more than 2 or 3 candles.

### **WAX MELTING SAFETY PRECAUTION**

**Keep young children well away from the area where you are melting and pouring hot wax.**

**Do not melt wax over direct heat.** Use a saucepan or bowl immersed in gently boiling water. Watch that the saucepan does not boil dry.

Wax is like fat in that if it should catch fire it should be smothered with baking soda, dry sand, a damp cloth or a metal saucepan lid.

### **DON'T EVER USE WATER TO EXTINGUISH A WAX OR FAT FIRE**

### **MAKING THE CANDLES**

Check that the mould is clean and dry. Do not use if any moisture is present.

Make a hole in the top of the candle with a darning needle then thread the wick through the hole. Leave about 3 cm of the wick showing then run the rest of the wick through the mould leaving about 5 cm to spare and then cut.

The wick must now be supported in the centre of the mould while pouring. The easiest way to do this is to place a pencil or something similar across the end of the mould and tie the spare end of the wick to it, to keep it suspended in the correct position.

Suspend the mould ready for pouring. If you are suspending in a hole cut out of a cardboard box, ensure it will not fall through while pouring in the hot wax by taping or pinning the mould

around the bottom latex overlap to the cardboard. **Recheck that you have the mould safely supported.**

Heat the wax to 80 degrees Celsius if you have a thermometer or until the wax is all melted. Now let the wax cool slightly before pouring into the mould. Fill the mould

Vibrate the mould slightly by tapping the sides to release any air bubbles.

Wax contracts as it cools and it is necessary to top up the candle to ensure a level base. Watch the candle as it cools and when it develops a skin after 10 to 15 minutes, puncture this with a pencil and top up the candle with a little melted wax.

Leave the candle to cool for several hours in the support until becomes hard.

To remove the candle, soap the outside of the mould and peel back the mould very carefully from around the base before pulling the mould gently off the candle.

Now trim any excess wax from around the candle and decorate with coloured waxes or paint if desired.