Recycling Spent Candle Wax Guide

List of Materials

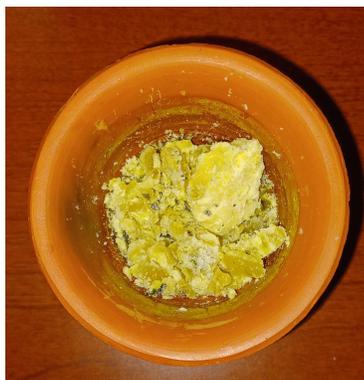- Spent candle
- Container to boil water in

Candles Ready to be Recycled

Usually, candles are not the most resource efficient. Sometimes they burn funky and become unusable, leaving leftover wax and a buried wick. When a candle finishes, there's always some leftover wax at the bottom. Whatever the case, the candle is spent. But the wax is still perfectly usable!

Getting the Wax Out

The first step is optional, but breaking up the wax with a fork or knife will help ensure the water melts all the wax. You can reuse the wax crumbles to melt into new candles. However, boiling them helps remove any extra wax residue from the container and you will be left with a nice, satisfying wax puck that's easy to store and use. You can also separate any leftover bits of wick at this step.

You are now ready to pour the boiling water into the wax. Fill the container mostly full. Be careful not to over fill! If you spill, you are spilling both boiling water *and* hot wax. All the melted wax will float to the top. At this point you can leave it alone until it cools. It can take up to 24 hours until it's cool, depending on the size of your candle. Make sure not to touch it before it cools completely. The wax will still be malleable until it reaches room temperature.

Once it cools, you can remove the wax from the water. It will be a solid puck. If your container tapers inward slightly at the top (like the white wax in the glass square jar), you may have to break the puck to get the wax out. It will still melt the same. Once you've got the wax separated from the container, you're all done! If you do this a few times with spent candles, soon you will have enough leftover wax to make your own candle!

Tips

Your container may still have a little bit of wax residue leftover. If you run it under hot (not boiling) water, you can more easily wipe it away with a paper towel.

Make sure you don't get any wax in the drain. It can cause a lot of damage.