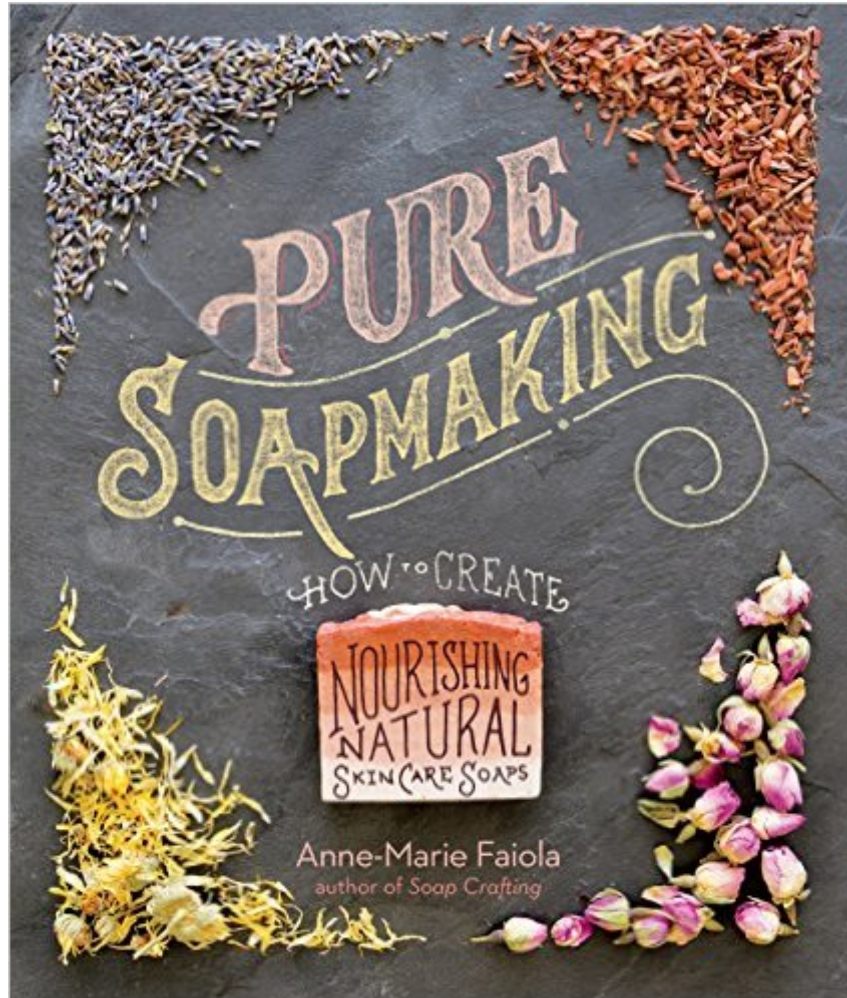


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Pure Soapmaking: How To Create Nourishing, Natural Skin Care Soaps



Synopsis

The pure luxury of soaps made with coconut butter, almond oil, aloe vera, oatmeal, and green tea is one of life's little pleasures. And with the help of author Anne-Marie Faiola, it's easy to make luscious, all-natural soaps right in your own kitchen. This collection of 32 recipes ranges from simple castile bars to intricate swirls, embeds, and marbled and layered looks. Begin with a combination of skin-nourishing oils and then add blueberry puree, dandelion-infused water, almond milk, coffee grounds, mango and avocado butters, black tea, or other delicious ingredients and then scent your soap with pure essential oils. Step-by-step photography guides you through every stage of cold-process soapmaking.

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Customer Reviews

I was so excited about Anne-Marie Faiola's (of Soap Queen and Brambleberry fame) new book Pure Soapmaking. I devoured her first book, Soap Crafting in one sitting and still pore over it every now and then to get inspiration from the recipes, techniques and drool-worthy photos. Like Soap Crafting, Pure Soapmaking is spiral bound, so it won't lie flat when you're using it. It's also chock-full of gorgeous photos, fun techniques and inspiring recipes—however this time it's using all natural ingredients. I put quotes around all natural because Anne-Marie does use pigments and oxides for color in the majority of the recipes. Pigments and oxides are usually made in a lab and are nature identical rather than being natural. Perhaps that's splitting hairs, but as someone who enjoys growing what goes into my soap, I was hoping there'd be more of an emphasis on

using botanicals, fruits and vegetables for color. Yes, she uses annatto, alkanet, comfrey, madder and indigo, but what about rhubarb, burdock leaf, seaweed, pumpkin powder and manjistha powder? Instead there's ultramarine pink, yellow oxide and green chrome oxide. I was especially disappointed when I read the recipe made with blueberries got its beautiful color from ultramarine blue and titanium dioxide. Would indigo or woad have worked instead? Having said all that from on top of my soapbox, I do love the book. It'll definitely become a much looked-at tome in my soap making book library. The recipes include ingredients like potatoes, lemon juice and egg yolks and the techniques are easy to follow. I'll try adapting some of the recipes to use with what I consider "natural" colorants. And I might even try to make blueberry soap without ultramarine blue.

I bought this book for natural soap recipes- and I agree with a few other reviews, not all the ingredients used are natural. I was hoping for some recipes with exotic cold pressed oils, but the recipes use common oils and butters, some good, some not good at all. Pros: the photos are great and so is the spiral bound design. Some of the recipes are simple. Some of the ingredients used are common and easy to find. Some of the recipes look really fun! Cons: I recognized a great many of the designs from the Amy Warden Soap Challenge and the original artisan soap makers were not given credit (design ideas are not exclusive to the Soap Queen). You're gonna have to spend a WHOLE lot of money buying the molds she uses for the recipes and the equipment. Instead of telling you how many ounces a recipe makes- you get how many bars based on her molds (a pain in the butt for a newbie to figure out using your own molds.) More than half the book is for advanced soap makers. Some recipes call for food items like potato or cucumber or banana- however there are powdered extracts that would be much safer to use IF you were selling these soaps (as far as I know the FDA does not approve raw food in soaps). The book is a copycat of other artisans original works and really instead of using ordinary easy to find molds it compels you to go to her company to buy the equipment (or buy it cheaper here on :) **SOME THINGS YOU NEED:** You need a silicone log mold, a wooden slab mold, a individual silicone cavity mold, a silicone slab mold (smaller), and a long log mold with dividers, and round molds, embellishment molds, natural colorants, oxides, tons of essential oils, heating pad, section tools, sodium lactate (in all the recipes), cupcake mold, stamp, rubber mallet, sealable tea bags, herbs, bubble wrap, cookie cutters, powder sifter, chopsticks, frosting bag and tip... it goes on and on. This is not for the beginning soap maker that has limited funds and space (some recipes require the freezer over night). The simplest recipes are the Olive Oil Brine, and Oatmeal Soap for Babies. I give it three stars for the photos, layout, time and effort,

the attempt of making it somewhat NATURAL SOAPMAKING, and the spiral binder, and because she used other artisans designs and not her own (even though she doesn't credit them).

I'm super excited to try these recipes! I avoid artificial ingredients, colorants, or preservatives in my soap so this book was a perfect buy. The good: 1. Each recipe comes scented with a combination of two-three essential oils (not a whole list that would cost a fortune) 2. The recipes are new, not the things you can already find on Soap Queen 3. Interesting additions like walnut shells, paprika, cocoa 4. The book starts off with a good introduction for beginners The bad: 1. This book, like Anne-Marie's first book Soap Crafting, still calls for products unique to her BrambleBerry website. I do not mind, but I know some readers who will be irked. 2. Some colorants in the recipes are still questionable (like titanium dioxide) which some think is a carcinogen Overall, I think it is a beautiful book that has interesting tips and plenty of things to try for beginner and advanced soapmakers. I will avoid or substitute some of the colorants that the book specifies. However, this is a great manual on soapmaking with natural ingredients.

Loved this book so much that I purchased a second copy for my soaping sister. it is a beautiful book that is well write with a great layout. I read this book from cover to cover. I am an experienced Soapmaker who found it to be quite inspirational. I may try some of her design ideas; at the very least I will use the book for new ideas. I have seen some complain as to what is natural or not. Anyone can argue as to whether this book uses "natural" ingredients or not. In the United States there is no legal definition for "natural ingredients ". If you don't like a particular ingredient, don't use it.

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