

SIMPLE BEE PRODUCT RECIPIES FOR AFRICA

The following recipes were popular on a bee product training course conducted in Somalia. Ingredients are generally available in Kenya. Be innovative where something is missing and experiment with what is at hand. Many bee farmers in Kenya make additional income making and selling simple beeswax based creams which are reputed to have medicinal properties. Add value and make more money from your beekeeping!

1. **Candles** - dipped, moulded, balloon shell, scented, engraved, herb candles

Explanation not included here

2. **Leather Softner**

When old leather such as belts, gloves and shoes become hard. This formula softens leather and makes it waterproof.

1 ounce beeswax
8 ounces of petrolium jelly

Melt the ingredients in a double pan. Brush the hot mixture onto the leather and allow it to penetrate. If possible place the item in the hot sun to allow the mixture to penetrate the leather. Polish the leather with a cloth to remove excess waterproofing.

3. **Shoe Polish**

3 & 1/2 Ounces of beeswax
1/2 cup of mineral spirits
1/2 tablespoon of soap
1/2 cup of water
Oil soluble aniline dye or lampblack (available in Industrial area Nairobi)

Melt the wax in a double pan. Dissolve the soap in hot water. Dissolve the dye in the turpentine. Remove the wax from the heat and stir in the turpentine and dye mixture. Stir in the soap water mixture. Stir until it cools and pour into tins. Experiment until you get the right consistency!!

4. **Wood Dressing**

This finish protects floors and outside timber which have not been painted and where paint is not desired.

2 ounces of beeswax
1 litre of linseed oil

Melt the beeswax and stir in the oil. Apply the mixture with a brush.

5. **Chapped Lip Balm**

- 1 Tablespoon of Shredded Beeswax
- 1 Tablespoon of Petroleum Jelly
- 1 Teaspoon of Honey
- 1 Tablespoon of Lanolin
- 3 to 4 Drops of Essential Oil

Melt the wax lanolin and petroleum jelly in a double pan. Add the honey and essential oil. Stir the mixture until it cools.

6. **Honey Ointment**

- 1 part honey
- 2 parts petroleum jelly

Combine the ingredients. Honey has well documented healing properties.

7. **Saddle Soap/ Skin Cream**

- 2 1/2 ounces of beeswax
- 4 ounces of anhydrous lanolin
- 2/3 cup of baby oil
- 3/4 cup of water
- 1 teaspoon of borax (sodium borate, C. P.)
- Fragrant essential oil (optional)

Chemically pure borax is sold in a pharmacy. Lanolin can also be purchased there. In a double pan melt the oil beeswax and lanolin to about 70 degrees centigrade. Melt the borax and water in a separate container to the same temperature. Add the water mixture to the oil mixture while stirring briskly. When white cream forms stir slowly until the mixture cools to 38 degrees centigrade. Pour into small wide mouth jars.

8. **Petroleum Jelly**

Petroleum Jelly is easy to make and is an ingredient in many other products. Naturalists preferring not to use petroleum products may use a natural oil instead of the mineral oil such as coconut oil, olive oil, corn oil etc to give an "un-petroleum jelly"

- 1 ounce of beeswax
- 1/2 cup baby or mineral oil

Melt the ingredients in a double pan. Remove the mixture from the heat and stir until it cools.