



# Recreation Recycles

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## Switch The Plastic: DIY Beeswax Wrap Kit

Watch the how to video on the Middletown Recycles YouTube Channel

<https://youtu.be/NVVsVRoDY9I>

### What is in Your Kit:

- Pre-mixed beeswax square (contains beeswax, pine resin, jojoba oil)
- Cotton fabric square
- Paint Brush
- Popsicle stick
- Pine Salve (which helps remove stickiness)

### What Else you will Need:

- Small pot
- A recycled glass jar to put inside the pot
- Baking tray
- Tin foil

Wax bars and pine salve were purchased and directions adapted from [www.jennyjoysoap.com](http://www.jennyjoysoap.com).

### What Are Beeswax Wraps?

Beeswax wraps are an environmentally friendly way to wrap foods and cover bowls. They can be handmade or purchased locally. They are naturally antibacterial and antifungal, making them food safe and a healthy alternative to plastic wrap.

- Single use plastic accounts for 40% of the all plastic produced.
- Even though plastic pollution is one of the worlds greatest challenges, plastic production has increased exponentially since 1950, and expected to double again by 2050.
- Every year 8 million tons of plastic waste escapes into our oceans, and this is the equivalent of emptying five garbage bags full of trash on every foot of coastline around the world.
- This is one step forward to reducing plastic waste.

*Statistics from: National Geographic & Plastic Pollution Coalition*



# DIY Beeswax Wrap Directions

## Method #1:

1. Preheat oven to 200 degrees.
2. Place beeswax square into your glass jar.
3. Place glass jar into your pot, and place your pot on the stove.
4. Pour water into the pot (not into the glass jar), so the water is at least 1 inch deep.
5. Heat slowly, using the lowest temperature, in a well ventilated area. Stir frequently with the popsicle stick.
6. As the wax is melting, line a baking sheet with tin foil. Make sure the lip/edges of the sheet pan is covered.
7. Once the wax is liquid, lay your fabric square on the tray and brush the melted wax formula onto one side of the fabric until it is covered.
8. Place it in the oven for 1-3 minutes.
9. When completely melted, remove from the oven, carefully turn over and re-coat.
10. Stick back in the oven for 1 minute.
11. Once finished, hang your fabric square to dry using clothespins or a clip.
12. When fully cooled, fold and place in a cool and dark place (such as a kitchen drawer).
13. To clean after use, wash with cold water and a gentle dish soap. Rinse and hang to dry.



## Method #2

Preheat oven to 200 degrees. Cover a recycled baking sheet with heavy gauge tin foil. Place the pre-mixed wax bar on the baking sheet. Insert into the oven, keep door slightly open to allow air to circulate. When the wax bar is completely melted, remove from oven. Place fabric on baking sheet & brush mixture into the fabric. Return to the oven and bake 1-2 minutes until liquified. Remove from oven & hang



**Important Notes:** 1 wax bar covers one large beeswax wrap, approx. 13 x 14". For additional cling, use two bars. Do not microwave. We recommend using "recycled" kitchen equipment (not your best, everyday cookingware) and protecting your counters, as it can be a sticky process. The pine salve does help in removing stickiness. Looking for more adventure? Beeswax wraps can be made by purchasing ingredients separately. For more information contact [Recycling@MiddletownCT.Gov](mailto:Recycling@MiddletownCT.Gov). Special thanks to Bernadette Basiel for her inspiration and expertise on beeswax wraps!