

## *Commercial vs Handcrafted What's the Difference?*

Commercial soaps are manufactured in large factories (often located overseas) staffed with anonymous employees, using the most economical ingredients. Often they contain some or all synthetic detergents as well as fillers which dilute the actual soap content; most have the glycerin removed.

Handcrafted soaps, on the other hand, are manufactured locally in small batches with the personal oversight and care of the soapmaker. Handcrafted soapmakers use high-quality ingredients and are able to add specialty oils and additives to personalize their formulations.

The creative artistry of each handcrafted soapmaker results in soaps that are different and unique, in terms of ingredients, colors, shapes and scents. Consumers enjoy a wide selection of soaps that are not only natural, but functional and beautiful, while supporting the local economy and small business endeavors in their community.



For more information on  
locally available handcrafted soap,  
please contact:



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The HSCG is the only international non-profit professional trade association promoting the benefits of handcrafted soaps and giving a voice to the handcrafted soapmaker.

Grateful thanks to the HSCG Members who provided photos for this brochure: front: Jennifer Hofmann, Jennifer's Handmade Soap; back: Crystal Bonin, Head 2 Toe; inside fold (soap in basket) Janey Davies, Scrubology Soap Co.; inside top: Julie Koenig, Absolute Soap; inside bottom (l. to r.): Kendra Abbott, Arthropod Apothecary; Vivian Sullivan, Selah Artisan Soaps; Cynthia Del Cueto, Cynthia's Soaps; Jo Haslauer; James Benson, Jimmy and Mary's; Susan Thorsen, Hummingbird Essentials.

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**HSCG**  
HANDCRAFTED SOAP  
& COSMETIC GUILD

## *Why Handcrafted Soap?*



[www.soapguild.org](http://www.soapguild.org)

# The Truth About Handcrafted Soap

Also known as “handmade soap” or “homemade soap,” handcrafted soap is a blend of both science and art. By combining the scientific knowledge of the last 150 years with the artistic creativity of the soapmaker, each bar is safe, luxurious and unique. Handcrafted soap is soap in its true and most pure form.

Handcrafted soap can be made from scratch by the cold or hot process methods or by using a pre-made soap base. The Handcrafted Soap and Cosmetic Guild recognizes any soap made by

*Handcrafted soap is soap in its truest and purest form.*

these methods to be handcrafted so long as at least 50% of the process is done by hand.

True soaps are the result of a chemical reaction between vegetable or animal fats, water and lye. When combined, they transform into soap and glycerin with no lye remaining in the soap. This reaction is called “saponification,” which literally means “the making of soap.”

Handcrafted soapmakers generally pride themselves on the unique recipes they use to create their signature soaps.

Most handcrafted soapmakers use food-quality, natural ingredients, starting with a variety of vegetable oils such as olive, coconut, or palm, or they may use purified tallow or lard. To these might be added specialized oils, nut butters or seed extracts to bring the desired qualities to the finished bar.

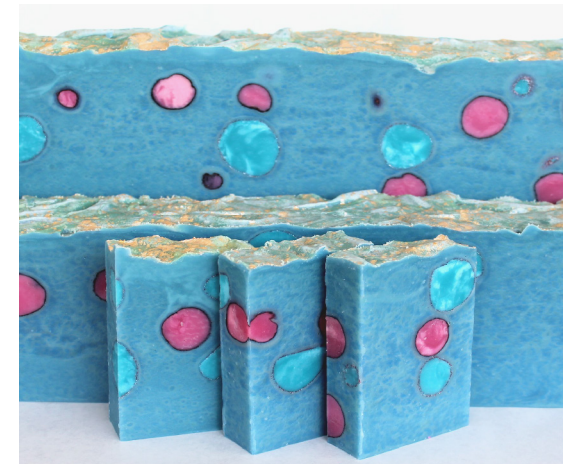
Fragrance oils or plant-based essential oils are added for scent. For color or texture, soapmakers often use

cosmetic-grade pigments or dyes, botanicals, herbs, spices or other natural ingredients. For those with sensitivities, many soapmakers also make “simple soap” with no additives or scent.

Besides all the wonderful ingredients that may be in handcrafted soap, perhaps the biggest advantage of handcrafted soap is in the soapmakers themselves, each of whom invests care and attention to detail into every batch and bar.

When you use a bar of handcrafted soap, you know it was made with the personal touch of a local soapmaker.

*Most handcrafted soapmakers use food-quality natural ingredients in their soaps.*



## What About Glycerine?

Glycerin is a humectant, which means that it attracts and retains moisture on your skin. It is like a natural skin lotion in the soap.

Glycerin is a natural by-product of the soap-making process. Most commercial soap manufacturers remove the glycerin from the soap, process it and then sell it to other industries where it is used in pharmaceuticals, foods, cosmetics, and other products.

With handcrafted soaps, glycerin remains in the soap. The end result is mild, pure soap that gently cleanses your skin without being harsh, irritating or drying.

