

How to look after your guests





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I n t r o d u c t i o n

It is most definitely a privilege to look after guests and in doing so, you give of yourself. The act of giving is an international language which shows friendship, acknowledgement, and a heart of service to guests. Giving bears a

message from the heart. Showing warmth, homeliness, personal touches, and personalised gifts will set the tone of service offered to your guests. Their experience starts the very second that they walk through the front door.

Basic Soap making

The bathroom is the most personal space, not only does it fulfil the function of cleansing, it is also a place for alone time and soul searching. Adding personalised indulgences to the bathroom is a definite must.

There are as many variations of soap making as there are colours of the rainbow. I am going to share with you a very basic method.

Recycled items:

Dry herbs and spices
Moulds from plastic or silicon/cupcake containers

Also needed:

Glycerine tubes
Liquid measuring cup
Toothpicks
Colouring
Essential oils
A knife



Method:

1. Chop the glycerine tubes into small chunks with a knife. Place the small chunks into a measuring cup and cover with paper towel.
2. Microwave the glycerine tubes on a medium heat for about 1 minute.
3. Remove the measuring cup from the microwave, add 2-3 drops of colouring. The easiest way to add colouring is by using a toothpick. Now add essential oils, which is optional. (Only add about 4-5 drops per 250 ml). Finally add our final ingredients, your choice of spices and/or dry herbs.
4. Pour the mixture into the moulds and allow to cool for 12 hours. Release the soap from the moulds.
5. Your fragrant and personalised soap is now ready to be displayed.

Tip: After you have poured the mixture into your moulds spray the surface with rubbing alcohol which will eliminate bubbles.

Follow the basic soap making method on p8. The soap on a string will be made in two halves and when put together will be in the shape of a ball. A silicon cupcake mould with a hole in the centre is the best mould to use. Once set, remove the two halves from the moulds. Turn your hob/stove onto a high heat and allow a pan to heat up. Once the pan is very hot, place the flat surfaces of the half circles in the pan for a couple of seconds. Allow the surfaces of your soap moulds to melt, remove and stick together. Set the soap ball a side to set. When the ball is cold, push a rope between the openings and make a knot at one end and a loop at the other. Ideal to display in a shower.





Soap Strainer

Choose a bowl of your choice and make a soap strainer for the top.

Recycled items:

Small bowl
Bamboo or wooden pieces
Raffia or string

Also needed:

Garden secateurs
Scissors
Measuring tape

Method:

1. Measure the opening of your bowl with a measuring tape. Use the measurements and cut six pieces of bamboo or wooden pieces to the required size.
3. In a criss-cross pattern place the pieces of bamboo or wood and bind with the raffia or string.
4. Place the newly made strainer on top of the bowl and display your homemade soaps for your guests.



Re-wrapped Soap Bars

Soap as a gift is always a wonderful treat to receive. The temptation to pick up a beautifully packaged soap and inhale its wonderful perfumed scent is irresistible. It is a gift that just keeps on giving. If the packaging starts to look 'tired', re-wrap it and put it back on display for your guests to use.

Recycled items:

Bars of soap

Soap bar labels (print them from the internet or photocopy the original one)

You will also need:

Tissue paper (enough to cover the soap)

Scissors

Paper glue

Method:

1. Remove the old wrapper from the soap bar. Where possible try and save any part of the wrapper for re-use.
2. Cover the soap with one layer of tissue paper, wrap it as if you were wrapping a gift.
3. To make an outer sleeve, cut out a piece of tissue paper, which measures three times the length and five times the width of the soap. Fold it lengthways in three, this will form a strip which can be wrapped around the bar.
4. Paste the label into position.





Up-cycle glass decanters

Recycled items

Glass liquor decanters of all sizes
Copper luggage tags

Also needed:

Dishwashing soap
Clean cloth
Bath oils, crème and foams to fill the decanters

Method:

1. Place the decanters in soapy water to remove any stains and dirt.
2. Dry with the clean cloth and fill with bath oils, crème and foam.
3. Write or print the names on paper and glue to the copper tags . (The paper writings can easily get wet. To prevent this from happening engrave the tags for a more permanent use).



Old ladder

Look out for different ways to display soaps and treats around the bath. The last thing you want your guest to do is to stretch for necessities. Up-cycle an old ladder into a bath rack to overcome this hurdle.

Recycled items:

Wooden ladder
Builder's-planks/ left over tiles

Also needed:

Mitre or hand saw
Measuring tape

Method:

- 1.Measure the width of your bath and add 15cm on both sides.
- 2.Use the mitre saw and cut the wooden ladder according to the measurements. (Be careful some wooden frames had a steel line between the wood panels for strengthening)
- 3.Scrub the newly cut bath rack with a brush and soapy water.
- 4.Allow to dry.
- 5.Ready to be displayed.





Lavender Balls

Lavender balls in the bath is a wonderful way for guests to de-stress in the bath.

Recycled items:

250ml dry lavender

Also needed:

250 ml melted glycerine tube

Glass cup (measuring more than 400ml)

Spoon

Teaspoon

Method:

1. Cut the glycerine tube into small cubes and heat in the microwave for 1 minute until in a liquid state.
2. Remove from the microwave, add the lavender and stir with a spoon. Allow to cool for about 5 min until it starts to set at the sides.
3. Use a teaspoon and add spoonful's into the palm of your hand and roll into a small ball with both hands. Place on a wire rack to set.
4. Display next to the bath for the guest to enjoy.





Herb posy

Permeate the air with the lovely smell of herb posies.

Recycled items:

Herbs from the garden
Metal bucket with a hook handle

Also needed:

Garden secateurs

Method:

1. Pick as many herbs as you can from the garden and place them into a metal bucket filled with water.
2. I normally make a large one for the bathroom and smaller ones for the bedside table.

Lavender hearts

Recycled items:

Linen fabric
Dry lavender

Also needed:

Pins
Sewing machine/tread and needle
Paper, pencil and scissors
Pinking shears
Spoon



Method:

1. Draw a heart template on paper and cut it out. Trace two hearts onto linen fabric. Cut it out with pinking shears.
2. Place two spoonful's of lavender onto the one linen heart's middle and cover it with the other one. Fasten it with pins around the edges.
3. Use the sewing machine and stitch the heart closed.
4. They are so easy to make, you will want to carry on making more.



Linen in basket

Make a habit of collecting pretty linen. You can find some beautiful pieces at car-boot sales, second-hand shops and reclamation grounds. Most of the times the linen is faded but you can still use the lace. If you do find a piece with gorgeous lace cut the damaged linen away and sew the lace onto a new piece of linen for an instant grand look. Fold them up in a neat square way and pack them all into a wire basket for the guest use or admiration. I have packed my precious ones into an old shopping basket.

Age the basket for a more admirable look.

How to age metal objects:

Use a rust activator and follow the manufacturer’s instructions or age as I do.



Ageing:

You will need:

- kettle braai or outside fireplace
- charcoal
- firelighters
- matches
- metal objects
- oven gloves
- barbecue equipment
- rust activator

1. Make a fire with charcoal, firelighters and matches! Place the metal objects directly over the flames or coals, one by one. Leave until all paint coatings have burned away. (Note: galvanised paint takes longer than others).
2. Wearing oven gloves and use tongs to remove the objects from the fire. Take care not to drop them or place them on top of one another as they will easily distort while hot.
3. When all the objects are cold, wash them thoroughly under running water to remove any traces of ash.
4. Dry the objects with an old cloth; they are now ready for decorating.

How to create pretty guest towels

You can decorate these pretties in many ways, I am just going to share with you a colour in method on fabric.

Recycled items:

Old linen pieces

Also needed:

- Fabric marker pens
- Template from the internet or books
- Fabric marker/pencil
- Measuring tape
- Fabric scissors



Method:

1. Print or photocopy your desired picture in black and white.
2. Work on a flat surface and place the picture underneath the piece of old linen. Use some cello tape to stick the picture to the surface and the linen on top. This will prevent it from moving when you are doing the tracing work. Use the fabric marker or pencil to trace the picture onto the linen.
3. When you are finished tracing, keep the fabric and picture in position and start to colour in the picture. Allow to dry completely.
4. Measure the width of the guest towel and add 2cm to the width and length of the linen piece with the coloured in picture. Cut to size.
5. Fold the linen piece's edges over about 1cm on each side. Use the pins to keep it in position onto the towel.
6. Sew it onto the towel with the sewing machine. Job done and ready for display.

Scented candles

There is something so comforting and calming when we are in the presence of light. Whether it is the warmth of the sun on our backs, or the crackling sounds of the fire, or the flickering glow of a candle, a myriad of different emotions wash over us. Candles have an ability to provoke such emotions of peace and calmness.

What could be better than cinnamon candles!

Recycled items:

Cinnamon sticks
Old candles (same colour)

Also needed:
Safe heat source
Old pot for melting wax
Glass holder for new candle
Pre-waxed wicks
Kebab stick (to keep the wicks in place)
Small sieve
Cinnamon oil



Method:

1. Place one cinnamon stick into the glass and measure the inside of the glass from bottom to top, use this measurement and cut about 10 sticks the same size.
2. Break the wax into small pieces, heat them in an old pot and remove any old wicks and debris with a small sieve.
3. Pour a small drop of the liquid wax into the centre of the glass, then press a pre-waxed wick onto the soft wax drop. Wait for it to solidify. Place the stick over the opening of the glass and twist the end of the wick around the stick to keep it in an upright position.
4. Reheat the wax in your pot to a liquid state. Add 2-5 drops of cinnamon oil to the liquid wax. Pour the liquid wax slowly into the glass to fill it only one quarter of the glass. Place the cinnamon sticks into the hot wax around the inside of the glass. Allow it to set.
5. Reheat the wax again and pour the liquid wax into the glass layer by layer until it has a smooth surface at the top.
6. The new candle is ready to be lit and stir up the emotions.



Colouring in stuff

Colouring in provides a relaxing yet highly creative way to free our minds. Colouring in is not just a hobby for children, adult colouring in books taking top spots on Amazon.com`s bestseller list. Be trendy and inspire your guests. I print some colouring pictures from the internet and place it on a clip board, ideal to do it in bed. Decorate the pen holders with interesting paper.



A Practical tip

Make sure your guests have access to the Wi-Fi password easily in their room. I use a pan splatter as my display board. Print or write the password on a nice card and display.

Spoil your guest with some interesting literature. If you know them well enough, you will be able to place reading matter in their room. I like to use a combination from short reads to more visually displayed books. Place the literature in a homemade paper rack.



How to make a paper rack

Recycled items:

Washing powder/cereal boxes (must be very strong)
Gift wrapping paper

Also needed:

Scissors
Craft adhesive spray
Scissors
Dust mask
Glue stick

Method:

- 1. I used a chipboard magazine holder as a template to cut a cardboard one from the box.
- 2. Cut the paper in the same way with an extra 2cm on all sides.
- 3. Glue the paper on all four sides of the holder. Just make sure you spray the glue in a well-ventilated area and wear a mask.
- 4. Snip the paper around the curved edges and corners to allow it to fold over easily.
- 5. Use a glue stick to glue the snipped parts.
- 6. This process can be time consuming but is worth the wait.



Linen spray

For an uplifting slumber make your own rose petal linen spray.

Recycled items:

- Fresh rose petals from heavily scented roses
- Bottle with spray top
- Rose tag

Also needed:

- Saucepan and lid
- Kitchen sieve
- Kitchen funnel
- 1l of water



Method:

1. Fill a saucepan to the top with rose petals and cover with water.
2. Place on a medium heat and boil for 5 min.
3. Remove from heat and allow to cool.
4. When it is cool pour through a sieve and funnel into the bottle.
5. Place a spray top onto the bottle and spray the refreshing rose water onto your guests’ beds to refresh the linen before they go to sleep.

Lace Tealights

Lace is timeless and never fades out of fashion. Its applications are endless. The flickering flames through the lace produces beautiful patterns on the walls. These patterns create a peaceful ambience in any room. I once heard a quote about lace, ‘Whatever improves the lace and makes it more beautiful is right’.

Recycled items:

- Glasses (any size)
- Scraps of lace

You will also need:

- Wallpaper glue
- Scissors
- Tealight or small candles
- Small bottles as props



Method:

1. Measure and cut the lace to encircle the glass.
2. Apply a layer of glue to the entire external surface of the glass, except for the base. The easiest way of application is by using your fingers.
3. Paste the lace down around the glass and paint a further layer of glue on top of it. Press the lace against the glass with your fingers to remove any air bubbles. Place the glass on a small bottle to prevent the lace from sticking to the surface. Leave overnight to dry.
4. Place a tea light or small candle in the bottom of the glass and see how it reflects its beauty.

I see it as a privilege to give guests a gift, something personal from you to them. People want to feel special and want to feel that they have not gone unnoticed. A gift speaks volumes and will be remembered by patrons. A perfect example would be, if your patron is an avid gardener, surprise them with labelling sticks and seeds. The rest you can spoil with lovely treats from your kitchen.



Good Night

