

BEEES WAX PRODUCTS

Bees wax is produced by the worker bees in the bee colony through wax glands present in their abdomen. Bee combs are made of this wax which is waterproof has antibacterial and antifungal properties. The brood is safe from infection when eggs are laid by the queen bee, inside the cells of the comb.

Bees wax is probably one of the oldest forms of skin care product, fuel source and medicinal use known to man. An ancient Greek myth is recorded by the Roman poet Ovid in his 'Metamorphoses' – where Daedalus an inventor made wings of feather and wax for his son Icarus, so they could flee from Crete where they were held captive by King Minos. Icarus didn't pay heed to his father's warning and went too close to the Sun, his wings melted and he fell into the sea.

Bees wax was also used as a currency and in 181 BC when the Romans defeated the Corsicans they imposed a tax of 10000 pounds of beeswax! In the 1300's farmers in France paid their annual taxes in beeswax. Candles made from bees wax was the earliest form of lighting especially in Churches.

Today one can find bees wax in balms, candles, colour crayons, cosmetics, lubricants, polishes, waterproofing material, dental applications, embalming processes and in many art and craft material. The famous Batik fabric painting is done with bees wax.

Bees wax candles burn with bright steady flames that give off the scent of nectar and honey, filling the room with a smell of the forest.

PROPERTIES OF BEEES WAX

- Chemical formula: C₁₅ H₃₁ O₂ C₃₀ H₆₁.
- Insoluble in water, density 0.958.
- Becomes brittle below 18 C.
- Becomes soft and pliable above 35 C to 40 C.
- Melting point 65 C.
- Flash Point 204.4 C.



FACTS

- 250 grams of wax can be extracted from one comb of the Apis dorsata bee colony
- Traditional gold jewellers use stingless bee produced propolis to make moulds for jewellery designs
- When the comb is white in color it indicates freshly produce wax
- Ancient form of dental filling
- Never rots because it contains a natural protective substance called "propolis", which comes from the Greek meaning "defense of the city".
- Wax moths lay their eggs in bee combs and their caterpillars feed on the bees wax

