Clumping bath salts
Posted by Denise - 2006/12/15 08:17

Anybody have any ideas on how to keep bath salts free flowing? I put some calcium carbonate in it but it didn't seem to help. I made a huge 25 lb. "premix" batch last night and the stuff wants to turn into a giant solid rock. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated! Denise :)

Re: Clumping bath salts
Posted by Jan - 2006/12/15 10:38

I remember from teaching papermaking that calcium carbonate is a form of limestone. But, I admit, you have me stumped in keeping the salts free floating.
Jan

Re: Clumping bath salts
Posted by Rajam - 2006/12/15 11:16

I've read that dendritic salt is supposed to help keep other salts in your scrubs and bath salts from clumping. So, I used it when making a huge batch of salt scrub and it really seems to work.

Hi Rajam,
What is it, and where did you find it? I can't find it at any of my suppliers. Thanks, Denise :)

What NOT to do - LOL
Posted by Denise - 2006/12/15 12:30

Ok, so I had this brain storm that if I spread this stuff on a cookie sheet and stuck it in a warm oven maybe that would dry it out enough to keep it from clumping. NOT!! First mistake, put wax paper on the sheet, a bit of the wax mixed with the salts and made a nasty bit of coating on it. Then I tried salvaging what I could, and put it on another sheet. Came back 20 minutes later and the citric acid and baking soda had been "playing" so the mix looked a little puffy. Decided to start over and forget the oven. Went downstairs and mixed another batch. When I came back to the kitchen I had a big salt cookie stuck solid to the cookie sheet! What fun! I love this job! Denise ;)
BTW, I did not add any liquid of any kind to the mix so I don't know why it is so damp.

Re: What NOT to do - LOL
Posted by Heather - 2006/12/15 14:45

Hi Denise. Was the product damp to the touch when you bought it? I work for a salt producer here in Australia and we make the coarse rock salt for bath products. As part of the manufacture process the salt is washed to remove impurities from the sea and then spread out on huge salt pans to dry naturally before being bagged. Often they dont leave it long enough, and by the time we get it, the pallets are dripping with water. It is also naturally hydroscopic so it will attract moisture from the air. My tip would be to place a towel on a tray, spread out the salt and place it out in the sun on a warm dry day before adding your oils and colourants. I will talk to my boss(mr technical!) on Monday to see what you add to stop the crystals sticking together. You will have this problem too, once you package it. They add chemicals to food salt to keep it free flowing, so there should be something you can use. I will post an update on Monday night.
Re: What NOT to do - LOL  
Posted by Denise - 2006/12/15 15:01

Thanks Heather!
No warm days in the sun here in the near future - it's the beginning of winter in Canda. I would love to be in Australia where summer is just starting! I think the Dead Sea salt may have been a bit damp when I got it. Thanks for looking into this for me! Denise :)

Re: What NOT to do - LOL  
Posted by Heather - 2006/12/15 15:10

Wow, you guys are probably sick of it, but I have never seen snow. I would love to have a white xmas. So yeah, I don't think you will be drying out salt in the sun. I'll see what mr techo suggests.

Re: What NOT to do - LOL  
Posted by Rajam - 2006/12/17 20:56

Hi Denise,
Sorry, been so busy getting things ready and cleaned, packaged, etc for Christmas! Dendritic salts can be ordered at www.fromnaturewithlove.com. They also have many other supplies you may be interested in.