**Shelf life of a Product**

Soap doesn't necessarily have an expiration date when it goes bad and can longer be used, but it’s still better to keep it sealed before you use it. The problem you run into is any additives to the soap. Colors, scents from the essential oils, and anti-bacterial components added to the soap may break down over time.

Some soaps still have some water in them. You need to store it so it can breathe or you can get mold in the package, and as it dries it will get harder and eventually lasts forever because it is so hard that very little comes off as you use it.

This is also the case with melt and pour soap. It has already gone through the saponification process, so any additives can grow mold and bacteria if left open for a while. Many products aren’t exactly “spoiled” to use past their shelf life but rancid ingredients may smell, or change color.

Shelf life is different depending on the individual recipe and type of ingredients. Figuring out the shelf life requires finding the shelf life of each individual ingredient. Some ingredients such as fragrance oils and colorants have an extremely long shelf life, while others like certain fixed oils may have a shelf life of several months.

Once you combine everything into one, the shelf life of the product becomes the same amount as the ingredient with the shortest life. For example if you mixed a colorant lasting three years with a oil lasting six months, the product will only be good to use for six months.

The shelf life depends on the ingredients and the process. Learn more about storing your products.

Many natural homemade bars of soap should be good for **up to 3 years**. Old-fashioned soap made using just lye and lard:

Soap does expire, but if it still lathers when you wash your hands, it should be effective. Most commercial store-bought soaps expire after **two to three years**. Natural or handmade soaps may expire sooner, within one year, as the essential oils and fragrances can get rancid or moldy.

How do you increase the shelf life of homemade soap?

1. Keep the soap away from water.
2. Let the soap air dry.
3. Always keep your soap in an appropriate soap dish that allows for drainage.
4. Store smaller pieces in a soap-saving pouch.
5. Use a washcloth instead of your hands.
6. Take cooler showers.
7. Water hardness.
8. Cut the bar of soap into smaller pieces.

Expired soap allows for the bacteria to grow rapidly and dangerously as the fats and essential oils have faded in potency.” Additionally, using an old bar of soap can cause skin rashes and sensitivity.

How do you check soap expiry date?

A soap may be expired if it's cracked, dry, and doesn't lather up, or if it doesn't have the fragrant smell it did when you first bought it.

What is the format of expiration date?

Expiry dates can come in these forms: **DDMMYY.** Beside the format, where the expiry date is displayed also leaves much to be desired.

The shelf life of a bar of soap

“Some of the ingredients are there to help protect the other ingredients, but they can only work for so long.” It's up to the manufacturers to determine the shelf life and the generally accepted time for soap is **three years**.

What happens if I use an expired soap?

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**Soap Storage Tips & Tricks**

1. Use Soap Holders With Good Drainage.
2. Store it high and Dry.
3. Let it air dry.
4. Cut your soap bar into tiny bits.
5. Use a washcloth.
6. Take cold showers.
7. Consider the ingredient in the soap.

Make sure the bar isn't left sitting in water between uses. Storing your bar soap in a dish with ample drainage to allow the bar to completely dry between uses, out of any direct water streams.