

Soap Studio

The manual

Beta draft, 17 October 2026

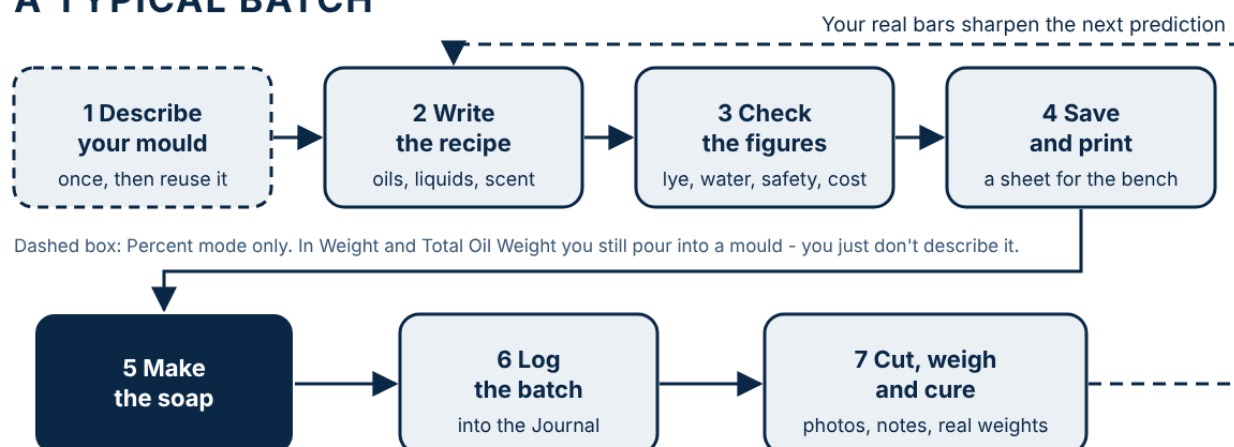
1. Getting started

What Soap Studio does

Most soap calculators stop when the recipe is done. They tell you how much lye and water to weigh out, and that is where they leave you.

Soap Studio goes beyond the recipe. It works out the lye and water, of course, and checks your fragrance against its safety limit. Then it carries on: how much batter your mould needs, how many bars you will get and where to cut them, what each bar costs you, and how your stock of each ingredient will change. When the batch is made, the Journal keeps it as a diary entry, and when you weigh your real bars the app learns from what actually happened.

A TYPICAL BATCH



A typical batch: describe your mould, write the recipe, check the figures, save and print, make the soap, log the batch, cut, weigh and cure - and your real bars sharpen the next prediction.

A recipe that fits your mould

At the heart of Soap Studio is a simple idea: a recipe is a set of proportions, and the mould decides how much of it to make.

Write a recipe once - 40% olive, 30% coconut, 30% shea, say - and choose a mould. Soap Studio works out exactly how much batter fills that mould and sizes every ingredient to match. Choose a different mould and the whole recipe resizes, lye and water included. The same favourite recipe can fill a small loaf on Monday and a large slab on Saturday without you doing any arithmetic.

You only describe each mould once: its size, or for an odd shape, how much water it holds. From then on the app also tells you how many bars it will give and how to cut them.

Three ways to size a batch

Sizing the batch to fill a saved mould is the default, but you do not have to describe your moulds to Soap Studio at all. Every recipe can be sized in one of three ways, and you can switch between them at any time:

Percent - you give each oil a percentage and choose a mould. Soap Studio makes enough to fill it.

Weight - you type the weight of each oil yourself, exactly as you would measure it out. No mould dimensions needed.

Total Oil Weight - you give each oil a percentage and say how much oil you want in total, 1,000 g for instance. Soap Studio shares it out. No mould dimensions needed.

Chapter 2 goes through each one.

Use as much or as little as you like

Soap Studio has room for a great deal of detail if you want it: your supplier and the price you paid for each ingredient, how much you have in stock, the temperatures of your lye and oils, the humidity on the day, notes and photos of every batch.

None of it is required. Leave any of it blank and the app carries on, giving you every figure it can from what you have told it. Nothing stops you making a recipe because a box is empty, and you can fill details in later, or never. If a figure cannot be shown because something is missing, the app says what is missing and where to add it.

One app, three devices

Soap Studio runs on iPhone, iPad and Mac. One purchase covers all three, with no subscription and no account to create. It works entirely offline, so it is happy in a shed or a kitchen with no signal. If you are signed in to iCloud, your recipes, moulds, ingredients and batches appear on each of your devices by themselves (chapter 9 says more).

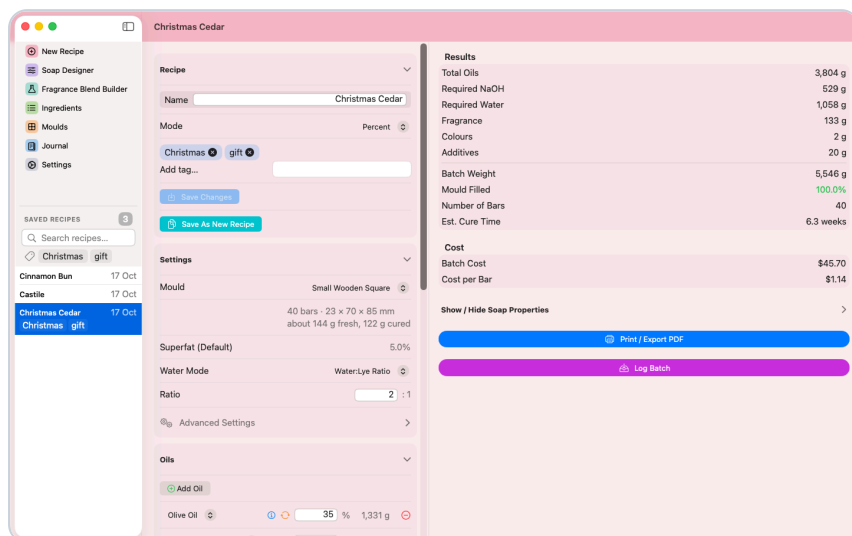
Each device suits a different part of the job, and many soapers use all three:

The Mac is the desk, where most of the work happens. Its big screen shows the recipe and its results side by side, which makes it the comfortable place to design new recipes, try out oil blends, set up your moulds and keep your ingredient library and prices in order.

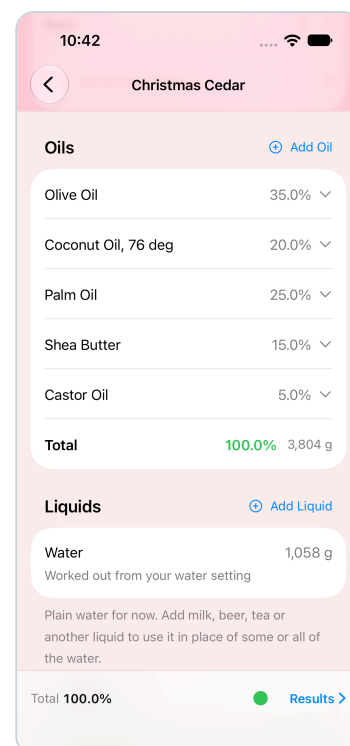
On the day, take the recipe to the bench whichever way suits you: print a recipe sheet from any device and work from paper, or prop an iPad beside the scales, where the recipe is large enough to read at a glance.

The iPhone and iPad go wherever you do. Check a recipe or your stock while you are out buying supplies, look something up from the couch, log a batch the moment it is poured, photograph it with the camera, and see when it will be ready.

The iPad and iPhone can do everything the Mac can. Some people find touch the more natural way to work, others prefer a mouse and keyboard; choose whichever you like for any job. Because everything syncs, you can design a recipe on the Mac in the evening, make it from the iPad in the morning, and photograph the cut bars on your phone the next day.



A recipe on the Mac



The same recipe on the iPhone

Finding your way around

On the iPhone the app opens on a menu. On the iPad and the Mac the same places are in a sidebar down the left-hand side, with your saved recipes listed in its lower half. The iPhone's menu holds eight places, in this order:

Recipes - your saved recipes, with search and tags. (On the iPad and the Mac these are the lower half of the sidebar.)

New Recipe - a blank recipe to start from. If you leave a new recipe without saving it, it waits for you under New Recipe, marked as unsaved.

Moulds - your moulds, the bars each one gives and how to cut them.

Soap Designer - a place to try out oil blends and see how the soap will behave, before you commit to a recipe.

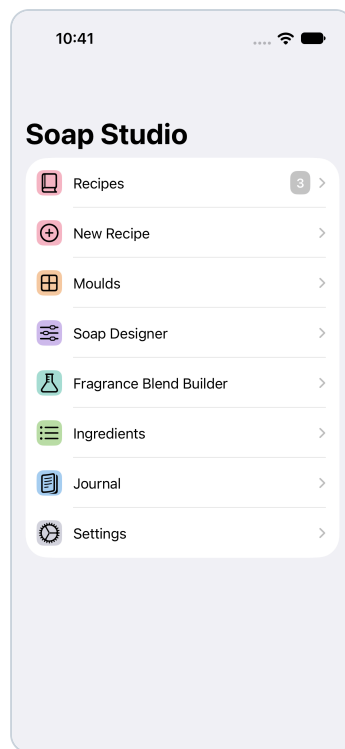
Fragrance Blend Builder - for making your own fragrance blends from several oils.

Ingredients - the library of oils, butters, liquids, fragrances, colours and additives, with your prices and, if you want it, your stock. You are not limited to the shipped ingredients. You can add any you need to with as much or as little detail as you want.

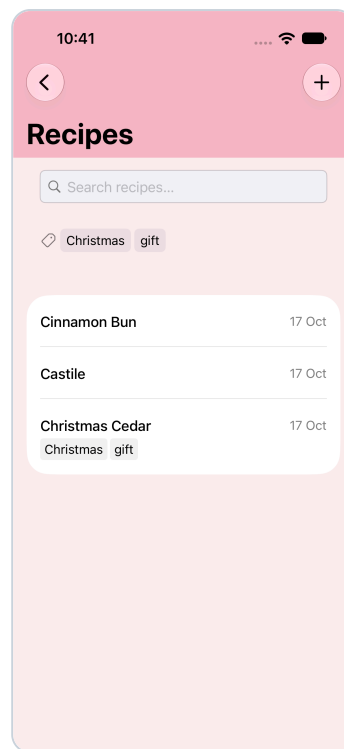
Journal - every batch you have made, as a diary.

Settings - units, currency, paper size and the starting values for new recipes.

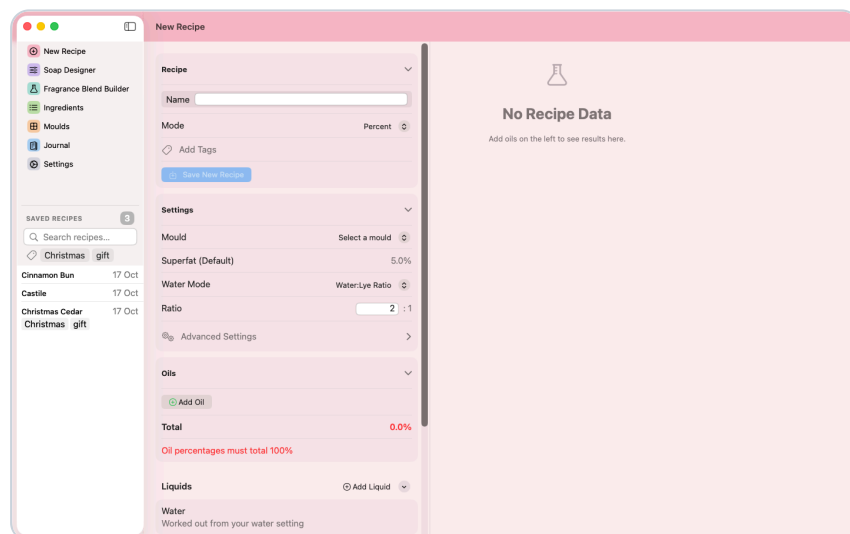
The sidebar on the iPad and the Mac lists the same places in a slightly different order: New Recipe, Soap Designer, Fragrance Blend Builder, Ingredients, Moulds, Journal and Settings, with your saved recipes below them.



The menu on the iPhone



Recipes, on the iPhone



The sidebar on the Mac

Grams or ounces, millimetres or inches

Soap Studio works in whichever units you prefer. In **Settings** you choose grams or ounces for weights, millimetres or inches for lengths, and Celsius or Fahrenheit for temperatures, along with your currency.

Change your mind at any time: everything already saved is shown in the new units straight away, and nothing is lost or rounded in the change.

What comes in the library

Soap Studio ships with 218 ingredients: 195 oils, butters and waxes, each with its saponification values and fatty-acid profile; 11 liquids; 6 additives; and 6 lyes and chemicals.

It does not ship any fragrances or colours. Every fragrance oil is different, and the safety limit that matters is the one your supplier publishes for that exact oil. So you add your own fragrances and colours, with your supplier's figures, and the app checks every recipe against them. Chapter 6 shows how.

Two moulds come ready to use, a small silicone loaf and a long pipe, so you can see how the mould tools work before you measure your own.

Your first recipe

This takes about five minutes and shows the main idea: you choose the oils and the mould, and Soap Studio does the rest.

1. Choose **New Recipe**.
2. Give it a name - "My first castile", say.
3. Under **Mould**, choose **Small Silicone Loaf**. The recipe is now sized to fill that mould.
4. Choose **Add Oil** and pick **Olive Oil**. With one oil it is 100% of the recipe. To try a blend instead, add more oils and give each a percentage; the total needs to reach 100%.
5. Look at the results. The app has already worked out the oils' weights, the lye and the water, using the starting values from Settings (a 5% superfat unless you have changed it).
6. Save the recipe. It now appears under **Recipes**.

7. Now choose **Long Pipe** as the mould instead, and watch every weight change to fill it.

That is a complete, usable recipe. Everything else in this manual - fragrances and colours, the other ways to size a batch, alternative liquids, costs, stock and the Journal - builds on these few steps.

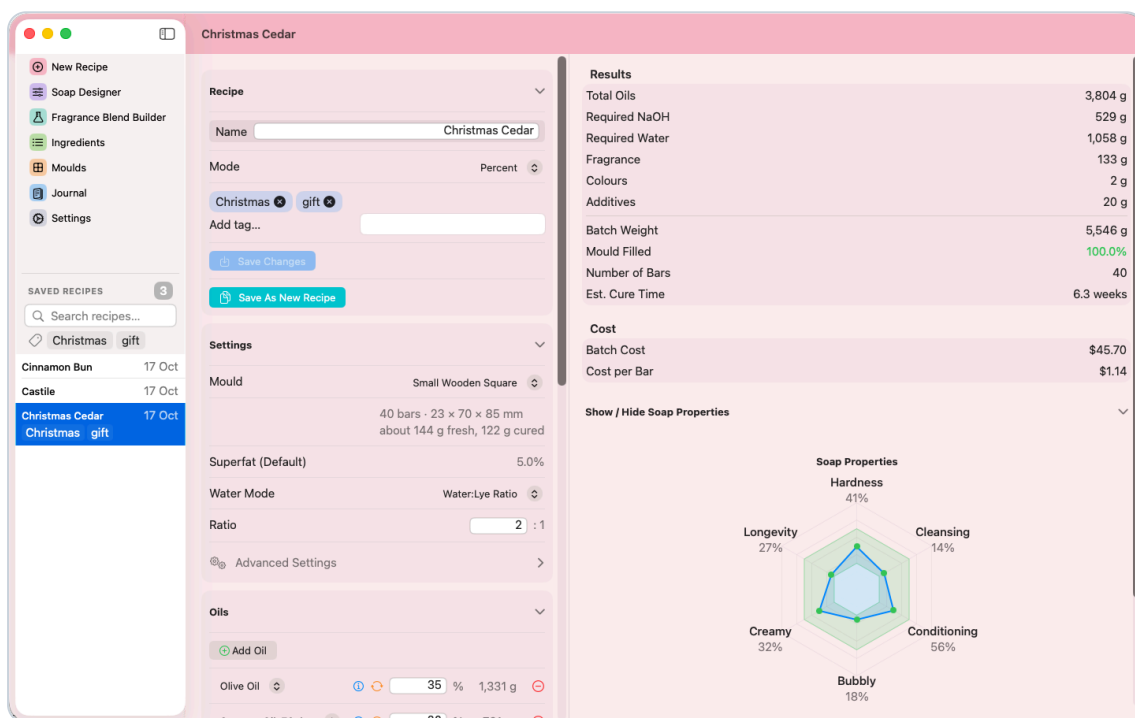
Before you make soap

Soap Studio's lye figures are checked to the decimal place against well-known online calculators, and its tests are run on every change. Even so, sodium and potassium hydroxide are caustic. Wear gloves and eye protection, weigh carefully, and if a figure ever looks wrong to you, stop and check it before you go on.

2. Recipes

A recipe in Soap Studio is everything that goes into the pot: oils, lye, liquids, fragrances, colours and additives. You write it once and the app does the arithmetic, now and every time you change something.

On the Mac the recipe sits on the left and its results on the right, updating as you type. On the iPhone and iPad the results have a screen of their own, and a strip along the bottom of the recipe shows the lye, water and batch weight while you work, so you rarely need to leave the recipe to check them.



A recipe on the Mac, with its results beside it

Starting a recipe

Choose **New Recipe** and give it a name. Everything else can be filled in in any order, and you will see results as soon as there is one oil in the recipe.

If you leave a new recipe before saving it - to look something up in Ingredients, say - it is not lost. It waits under New Recipe, marked as unsaved, exactly as you left it.

THREE WAYS TO SIZE A BATCH



In Weight and Total Oil Weight you can still choose a saved mould: the app then tells you how well the batch fills it. Switch modes any time - the batch stays the same size.

Three ways to size a batch: Percent, Weight and Total Oil Weight.

Choosing how to size the batch

Under **Mode** you choose one of three ways to size the batch. Chapter 1 introduced them; here is when each is useful.

Percent is for recipes you want to fit a mould. Give each oil a percentage - the oils must add up to 100% - and choose the mould under **Mould**. Soap Studio works out how much batter fills it and sizes everything to match. This is the mode that lets one recipe fill any of your moulds: change the mould and every weight follows.

Weight is for when you already know the weights. Type each oil's weight as you would measure it out. The percentages are worked out for you.

Total Oil Weight is for when you know how big a batch you want but not which mould. Give each oil a percentage and type the total weight of oils; Soap Studio shares it out.

In Weight and Total Oil Weight you can still choose a mould. It does not change the batch; instead the app tells you how well your batch would fill it.

You can switch mode at any time. The batch you have stays the same size when you switch, so nothing jumps; switch straight back and you get exactly what you typed before.

Oils

Choose **Add Oil** to add an oil. The list puts your **Common Oils** first, the ones you use most, and the rest of the library under **Other Oils**. You choose which oils count as common in Ingredients.

Each oil carries its saponification values and fatty-acid profile, so the lye and the soap's properties are worked out from the oils you actually chose. From an oil's row you can see its profile, and if you are short of it, look for similar oils you have in stock.

Lye and superfat

The **Superfat** is the share of oil left unsaponified to make a gentler bar. New recipes start with the superfat set in Settings (5% unless you change it).

Under **Advanced Settings** you will find:

- **Superfat Adjustment**, to change the superfat for this recipe;
- **NaOH:KOH Ratio**, from all sodium hydroxide (100:0, for bar soap) through mixtures to all potassium hydroxide (0:100, for liquid soap);
- **NaOH Purity** and **KOH Purity**: lye as sold isn't quite pure, so Soap Studio weighs out a little extra to make up the difference. New recipes assume 99% for NaOH and 90% for KOH, which suits most suppliers. If your container gives a different figure, change it here for this recipe, or in Settings for every new recipe. Because of this, Soap

Studio's lye weights are slightly higher than a calculator that assumes pure lye: about 1% more NaOH, or about 11% more KOH. Set the purity to 100% and the figures will match. Your superfat is unaffected;

- **Chelator**, if you add citric acid, sodium citrate, EDTA or sodium gluconate to soften hard water. Where a chelator uses up lye, Soap Studio adds the extra lye it needs;
- **Use Masterbatch**, if you keep a ready-made lye solution. Set its strength and the app tells you how much solution to weigh, and how much extra water to add.

Water

Choose how you like to think about water under **Water Mode**:

- **Water:Lye Ratio** - for example 2 to 1, twice as much water as lye;
- **Lye Concentration %** - how strong the lye solution is, for example 33%;
- **Liquid as % of Oils** - the older way many recipes are written, for example 38%.

Switching between them does not change the amount of water; the app simply shows the same water in the new terms. If you type a value that cannot work, such as a negative ratio, the box says why and the figures wait until it is fixed.

Other liquids

Many soapers use milk, beer, tea, aloe or other liquids in place of some or all of the water. Choose **Add Liquid** and pick one. The water line is worked out from your water setting and **tops up the rest**: add 200 g of goat's milk and the plain water drops by 200 g, so the total liquid stays what your recipe needs.

Some liquids come with a short note - milk scorches if the lye goes in warm, beer should be left to go flat, a liquid with sugar can make the lye solution heat up quickly. The notes are a reminder, never a block.

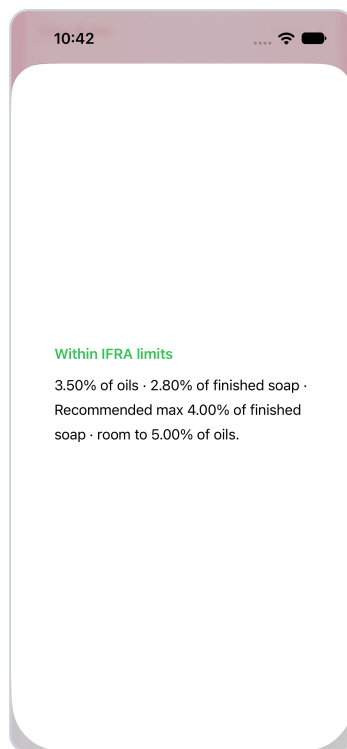
If your liquids add up to more than your water setting asks for, the app says so: the batch will be wetter than you set.

Fragrances

Choose **Add Fragrance** and give it as a percentage of the oils. Soap Studio checks every fragrance against the limits you entered for it in Ingredients:

- **Within IFRA limits** - you are inside the safe limit for soap (IFRA Category 9);
- **Above recommended max** - over your supplier's recommended level;
- **Above IFRA legal max** - over the legal limit. Reduce it;
- **IFRA values not entered** - the app cannot check a fragrance until you enter its limits, which your supplier publishes.

IFRA limits are written as a share of the finished soap, not of the oils, so Soap Studio converts your percentage to the same basis before comparing. With more than one fragrance it also checks them together, cautiously, because two fragrances can contain the same restricted ingredient.



A fragrance's
safety details

Chapter 5 shows how to make a blend of several fragrances into one.

Colours and additives

Choose **Add Colour** or **Add Additive** and give a weight. A colour can carry a note about how it behaves in soap - whether it changes colour in lye, or bleeds into neighbouring layers - taken from the colour's details in Ingredients.

Sugar, salt, clays, sodium lactate and the like are all additives. Each counts towards the batch weight and the mould fill.

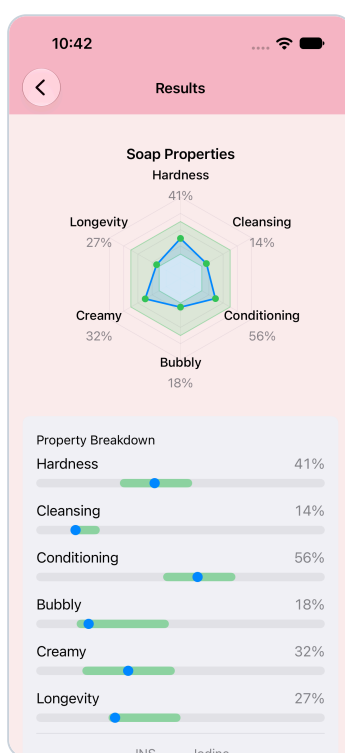
The results

As you build the recipe, the results show:

- the **total oils** and each ingredient's weight;
- the **NaOH** or **KOH** needed and the **water**;
- the **batch weight** and how well it fills the mould;

- the **number of bars**, from the mould's cut (chapter 3);
- the **estimated cure time**;
- the **batch cost** and **cost per bar**, if your ingredients have prices (chapter 6);
- the **soap properties** - hardness, cleansing, conditioning, bubbly, creamy, longevity - with the **INS** and **iodine** values, each shown against its usual range.

If you track stock, the recipe also tells you when you are short of an ingredient for this batch, and offers ones you do have.



Results on the
iPhone

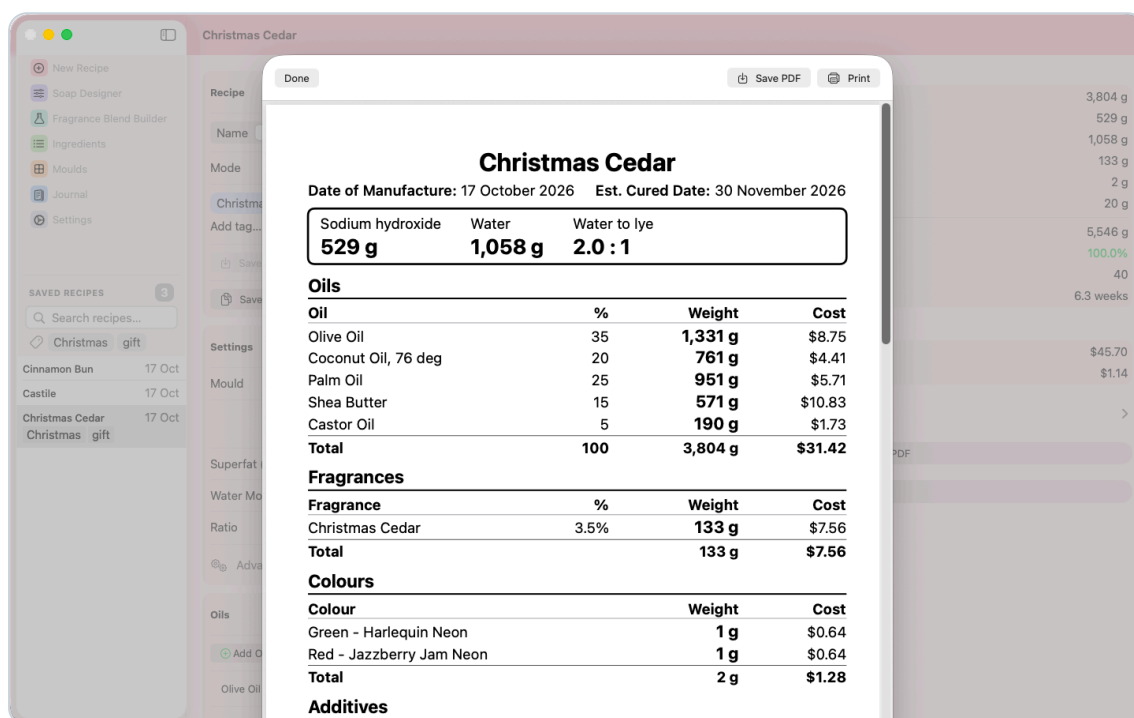
Saving

Save New Recipe saves a new recipe. Once it is saved, **Save Changes** keeps your edits and **Save As New Recipe** saves them as a separate copy, leaving the original as it was - handy for trying a variation. A recipe with unsaved changes is marked **Edited**.

Add **tags** - "Christmas", "gift", "trial", "conditioning" - to find recipes later. The Recipes list can be searched by name and narrowed by tag.

Printing

Print / Export PDF makes a recipe sheet for the bench: every weight in order, the lye and water, the mould and how to cut it, with space to write in what happened on the day. Choose A4 or US Letter under Paper Size in Settings.



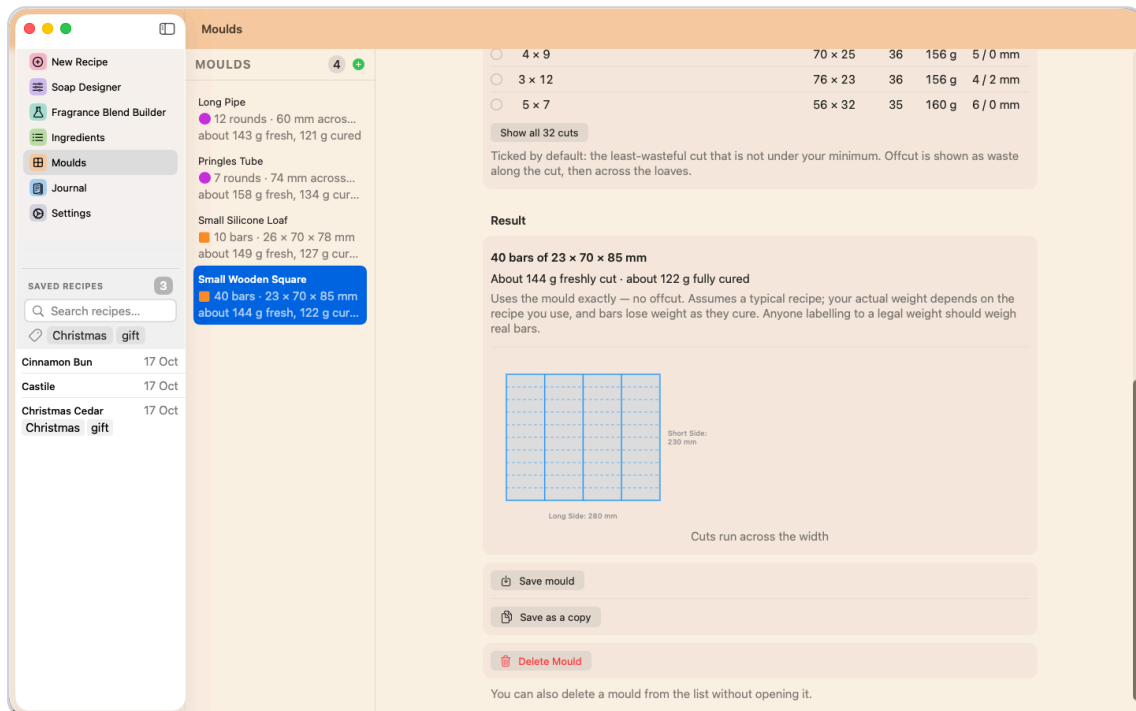
The recipe sheet, ready to print

When the batch is made

Log Batch records the batch in the Journal, with a snapshot of the recipe exactly as it was, so later changes to the recipe never alter the record. Chapter 7 covers the Journal.

3. Moulds and cutting

A mould in Soap Studio is more than a container. Once you have described it, the app knows how much batter fills it, how many bars it gives, how to cut them, and what each bar will weigh - and every recipe in Percent mode can be sized to fill it.



The Moulds list beside a box mould and its cut, on the Mac

FROM MOULD TO BARS



Silicone mould? Measure its width at the top when it is full - the sides bow outwards.

Every bar keeps a piece of the top you poured: the app never cuts across the pour depth.

Change the mould later and the app tells you if the cut you chose no longer fits.

From mould to bars: measure the mould, say how bars are sized, Soap Studio offers cuts, tick one, cut at the bench.

Adding a mould

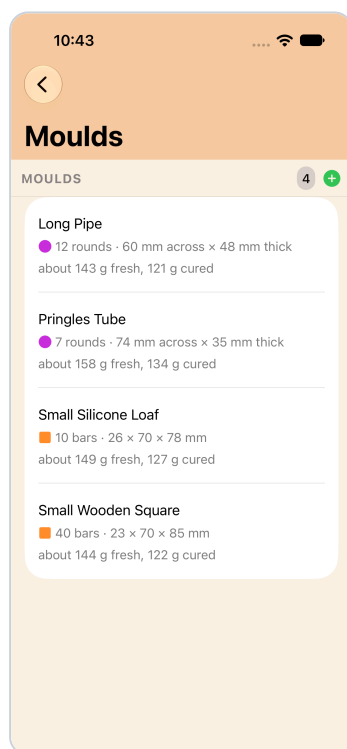
In **Moulds**, choose **+** to add one, give it a name, and choose its **Shape**:

Box - any loaf or slab mould with straight sides. Enter its **Length**, **Width** and **Mould height**, then the **Soap fill height**: how deep you actually pour, which needn't be right to the top.

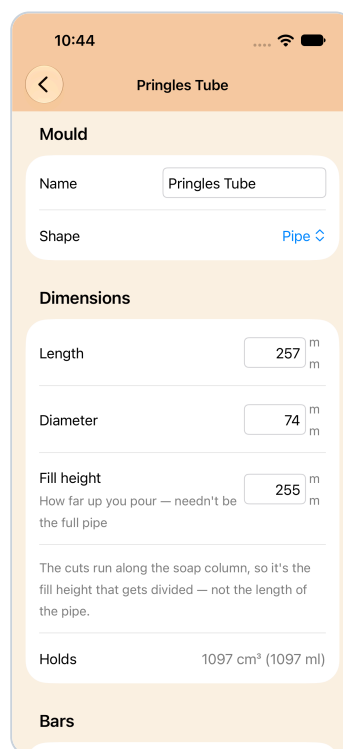
Pipe - a round tube, filled standing on its end. Enter its length, its **Diameter**, and the **Fill height** - how far up you pour. When the soap comes out of the tube it is laid down and cut into rounds, so it is the fill height that gets divided, not the length of the pipe.

Irregular - anything else: a tray of shaped cavities, a novelty mould, a container with sloping sides. Rather than measuring it, you weigh it. Weigh the mould empty, fill it to where you would pour with water, and weigh it again. Water weighs a gram per millilitre, so the difference is the volume it holds. Enter both weights and the **Number of cavities**; each cavity is one bar. (Irregular is offered when you add a new mould.)

Two moulds come ready to use: a small silicone loaf and a long pipe.



The Moulds list



A pipe mould

Measuring a silicone mould

Silicone moulds bow slightly outwards when they are full, and the batter they hold is wider than the empty mould suggests. In our own small silicone loaf, which measures 70 mm across empty, the soap came out 72 to 73 mm wide. That small difference filled the mould several millimetres short of where we expected.

So for a silicone mould, measure the width at the top, halfway along, when the mould is full - of water is fine - and enter that width. With the real width entered, our batches have reached the mould within 1% of plan.

How the bars are sized

Under **How bars are sized** choose one of two ways.

By weight is for when bars must weigh at least a certain amount - if you sell by weight, for example. Enter a **Minimum bar weight**, and say whether that minimum applies to the bar **freshly cut** or **fully cured** (bars lose weight as they cure). Soap Studio looks at every way of cutting the mould and offers only cuts whose bars weigh your minimum or a little more, never less.

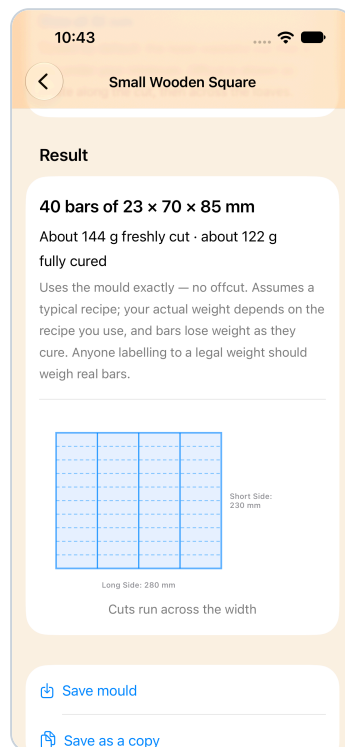
By size is for when the bar's shape matters most - to fit your boxes, or your cutter. Enter the **Bar width** your boxes or cutter need and the **Bar thickness** you cut.

For a large slab, turn on **Split into loaves** if you cut it into strips first and then slice each strip into bars.

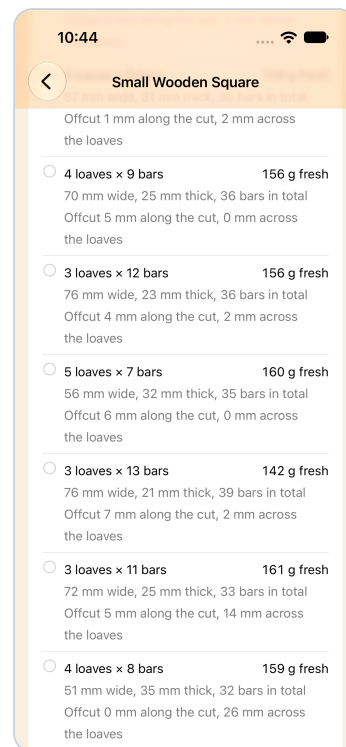
The cut

The **Result** shows the cut Soap Studio recommends: how many bars, their size, and what each will weigh freshly cut and fully cured. The cutting diagram shows where every cut goes and any offcut left over.

When weight decides the bars, there is usually more than one good way to cut a mould. **Show all** lists them. The one ticked is the least wasteful cut that is not under your minimum, with ordinary bar shapes ahead of odd ones; tick a different one if you prefer it, and that is the cut your recipes will use.



The cut and its diagram



Every cut, with Show all

The bar weights assume a typical recipe. Your real bars depend on the recipe you use and how far they have cured, so anyone labelling to a legal weight should weigh real bars. Logging your batches in the Journal lets the app compare its predictions with what you actually cut.

If no cut can reach your minimum, Soap Studio says so, shows the nearest cuts below it, and suggests what to change - a lighter minimum, a shallower pour, or splitting into loaves.

Why the top of the soap is never cut

The top of a loaf or slab is often its best face: textured, swirled, or scattered with petals. Soap Studio never cuts across the pour depth, so every bar carries a piece of that top. The bar's height is always the depth you poured.

Changing a mould

Open a mould to change it. If a change means the cut you chose no longer fits, or now gives bars outside your minimum, the app tells you and offers to work out a new cut. **Save as a copy** keeps the original unchanged - useful for the same mould poured to a different depth.

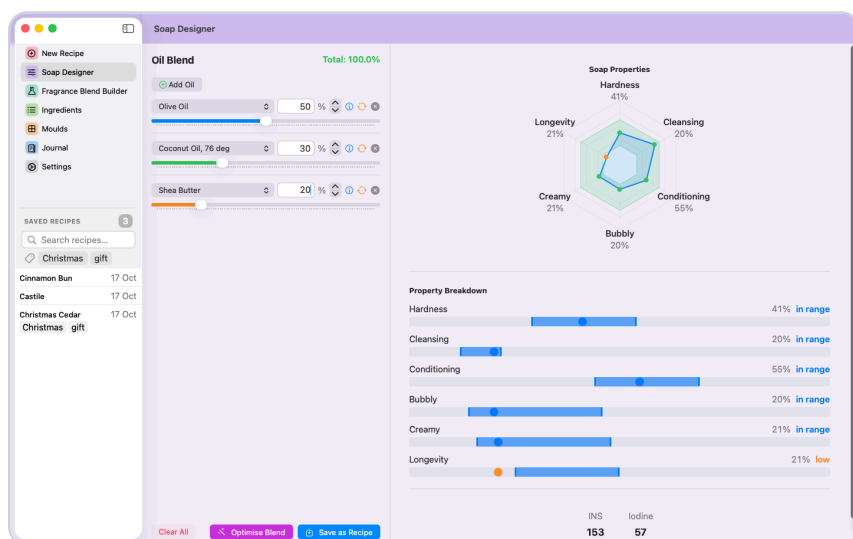
Two moulds may share a name, but the app warns you when you save one, because they are easy to confuse in a list.

Using a mould in a recipe

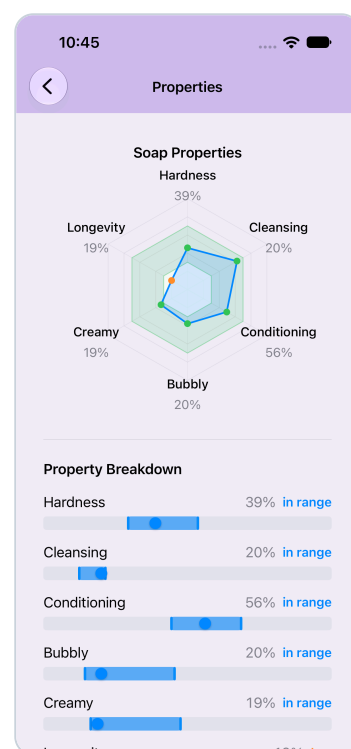
In a recipe set to Percent, choose the mould under **Mould** and the batch is sized to fill it. The number of bars and the cutting guide go onto the printed recipe sheet. In Weight and Total Oil Weight the mould is a check only: the app tells you how well your batch fills it.

4. Soap Designer: trying out an oil blend

Soap Designer is a scratch pad for oils. Add the oils you are thinking of and Soap Studio shows how the bar will behave - hard or soft, how it lathers, how it cleans - before you commit to a recipe. Nothing here is weighed or saved until you ask, so you can try as many ideas as you like.



Soap Designer on the Mac



Its properties on the iPhone

Building a blend

Choose **Add Oil** and pick an oil; give each one a percentage. The total is shown as you go - "8% to go" or "6% over" - so you can see how close you are to 100%. You do not have to land exactly on 100% to see results: until you do, the properties are worked out in proportion, as if the oils were scaled to 100%.

Each oil's **More options** lets you see its profile, change it for another oil, find substitutes for it, or remove it from the blend.

Reading the properties

Properties shows the six qualities soapers use to judge a bar:

- **Hardness** - how firm the bar is and how well it holds its shape;
- **Cleansing** - how strongly it cleans (too high can feel drying);
- **Conditioning** - how gentle it feels on the skin;
- **Bubbly** - big, fluffy lather;
- **Creamy** - fine, stable lather;
- **Longevity** - how long the bar lasts in use.

Each is shown against its usual range, with a plain word to say whether it is low, in range or high. The INS and iodine values are shown too.

These figures come from the oils' fatty-acid profiles. They are a good guide to how one blend compares with another, not a promise about a particular bar.

Optimise Blend

Optimise Blend keeps the oils you have chosen and adjusts their percentages to bring as many properties as it can into their usual ranges. It then tells you how it did - for example "5 of 6 properties in ideal range". It needs at least two oils. If you do not like the result, change the percentages back by hand.

Turning a blend into a recipe

When you are happy with a blend, **Save as Recipe** saves it as a new recipe in Percent mode, starting from your usual superfat, lye and water settings, ready for you to choose a mould, add fragrance and colour, and

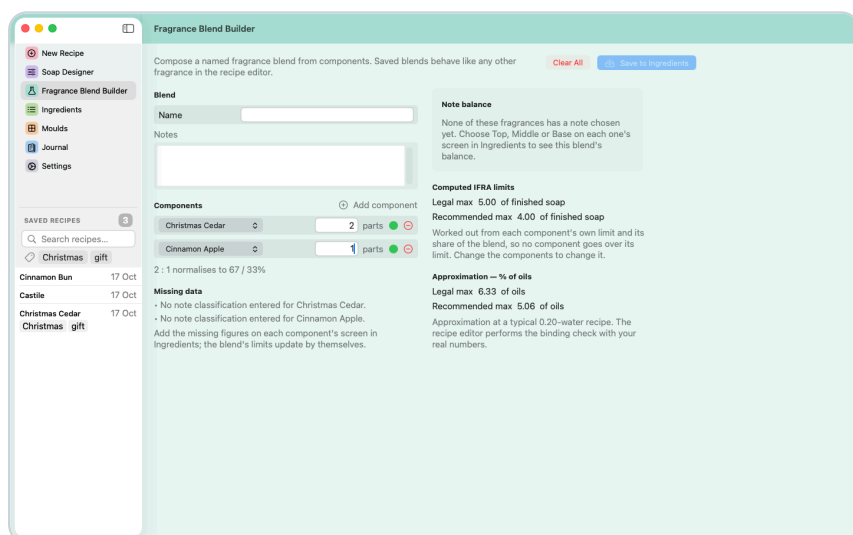
check the lye. It is given a dated name, such as "Soap Designer recipe, 16 Oct 2026, 10:40", which you can change in the recipe.

Clear All empties the blend so you can start again; it asks first.

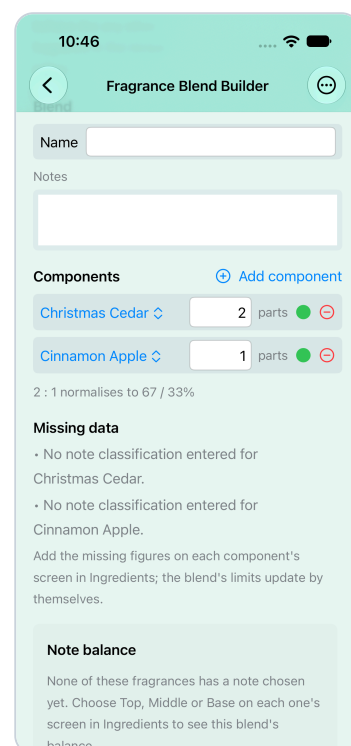
Your blend stays in Soap Designer while you visit other parts of the app, so you can look something up and come back to it.

5. Fragrance Blend Builder

Many soapers scent a batch with a blend of two or more fragrance or essential oils - lavender with a little rosemary, say. The Blend Builder lets you make that blend once, give it a name, and then use it in any recipe like a single fragrance. Its safety limit is worked out for you from the oils in it.



The Fragrance Blend Builder on the Mac



On the iPhone

Making a blend

1. Choose **Fragrance Blend Builder** and give the blend a **Name** (and **Notes** if you like).
2. Choose **Add component** for each fragrance in the blend and pick it from your fragrances in Ingredients.
3. Give each a **share**. Shares can be parts or percentages: 2 : 1 : 1 works just as well as 50 / 25 / 25, and the screen shows what your parts come to as percentages.
4. Choose **Save to Ingredients**.

A blend needs at least two components, each with a fragrance chosen and a share above zero.

The saved blend appears in Ingredients with your other fragrances, and in a recipe you choose it under **Add Fragrance** like any other.

The blend's safety limits

Under **Computed IFRA limits** the Blend Builder shows the blend's **Legal max** and **Recommended max**. They are worked out from each component's own limit and its share of the blend, so that at the blend's limit no component goes over its own. You cannot type these limits in; change the components or their shares and they change with them.

For this to work, every component needs its IFRA limits entered in Ingredients. If one is missing, the Blend Builder says which, and the blend's limits fill in by themselves once you add the missing figures on that component's screen.

Like any fragrance's limits, these are a share of the finished soap. Beneath them the Builder also shows the same limits as a percentage of the oils, an approximation for a typical recipe. The real check happens in each recipe, with that recipe's own numbers, exactly as for a single fragrance (chapter 2).

Changing a blend

To change a saved blend, open it in **Ingredients** and, in its IFRA section, choose **Open in Fragrance Blend Builder**. It opens with its components and shares, under the title **Edit blend**. **Save changes** replaces the blend's components and limits with the new ones.

Unsaved blends

A blend you have not finished waits for you while you visit other screens. Choosing **Fragrance Blend Builder** from the menu brings back a blend with unsaved changes, whether a new one or a saved one you were changing; with nothing unsaved it opens empty, ready for a new blend. If you have unsaved changes to a blend and open a different one, the app asks before discarding them.

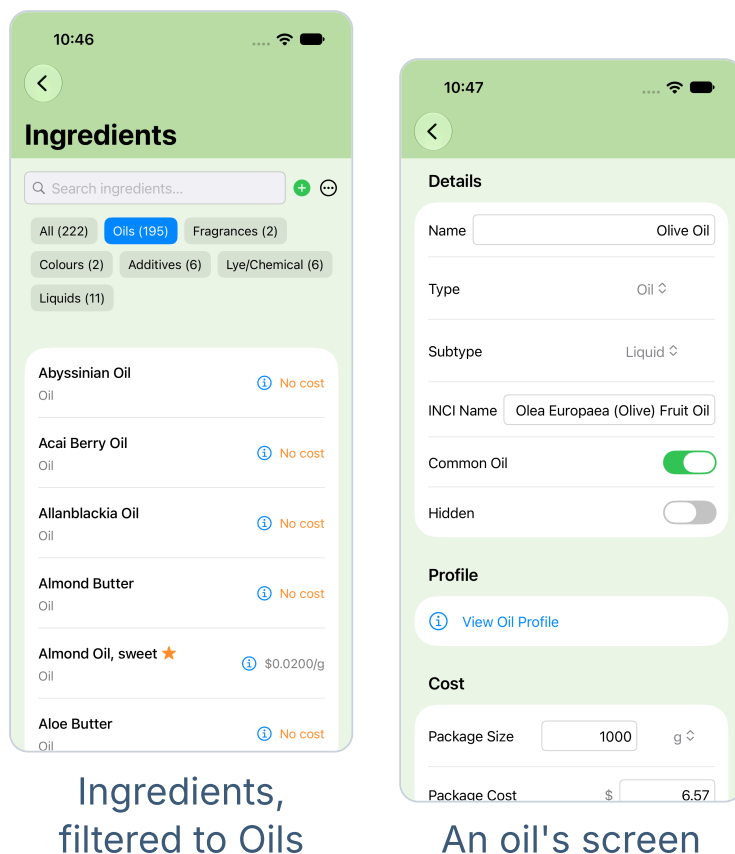
To start again, a new blend has **Clear All**, and a saved blend you have changed has **Discard Changes**, which puts it back as it was last saved. Both ask first. On the Mac and iPad they sit beside the Save button; on the iPhone they are in the ... menu at the top of the screen.

Saving a blend straight from a recipe

If you find a mix you like while working on a recipe, you do not need to rebuild it here. Once a recipe has two or more fragrances with percentages, a **Save as blend...** button appears under them in the Fragrances section, on every device. Give the blend a name and choose **Save & keep rows** to leave the recipe's fragrance rows as they are, or **Save & replace rows** to put the new blend in their place. Either way the fragrances, in their proportions, become a blend in Ingredients.

6. Ingredients

The Ingredients library holds everything that can go into a soap: oils, butters and waxes, fragrances, colours, additives, liquids, and the lyes and chemicals. Every recipe draws on it, so what you record here - a price, a density, a fragrance's safety limit - is used everywhere at once.



Finding an ingredient

Search by name, or narrow the list with the chips along the top: **Oils**, **Fragrances**, **Colours**, **Additives**, **Lye/Chemical** and **Liquids**, each showing how many you have. If you track stock, two more chips show what is **Running low** and **Out of stock**.

Choose an ingredient to see everything about it. For an oil, its **Used in** section (for example "Used in 3 recipes") lists the recipes that use it; choose one to open it.

Common Oils

Mark the oils you use most as a **Common Oil**. They are listed first whenever you add an oil to a recipe or a blend, so you are not scrolling past two hundred oils to find olive.

Adding your own ingredient

Choose + (Add Ingredient), give it a name and choose its **Type**. Only the name is needed to save it. What else is worth filling in depends on the type:

An oil, butter or wax needs its **SAP NaOH** and **SAP KOH** values before it can be used for lye - your supplier's data sheet usually gives them. Its **Fatty Acid Profile** decides the soap properties; the percentages should add up to roughly 100.

A fragrance needs its **IFRA Usage Limits** for soap (Category 9): the **Legal Max** and your supplier's **Recommended Max**, both as a percentage of the finished soap. Your supplier publishes these, usually in an IFRA certificate. Without them the recipe can tell you how much fragrance you are using, but not whether it is safe. You can also record where it sits as a top, middle or base note.

A colour can carry its swatch, its CI number, a typical amount to use, and how it behaves in soap - whether it changes colour in lye, bleeds into neighbouring layers, or is best mixed into oil or water first. The recipe shows a short reminder from these.

A liquid can carry what it does in the lye - milk scorches, that beer should go flat first, sugary juices heat up - so the recipe can remind you.

Density

An ingredient's **Density** is used to work out how much space it takes in the mould and, for anything sold by volume, its price per gram. For an oil, the density as sold at room temperature is right. For a powder - a

clay, a mica, citric acid - enter the density of the solid itself, which supplier sheets call **specific gravity** or **true density**, not its bulk density. Once the powder is mixed into the batter, the air between the grains is gone, so the bulk figure would make the batch look bigger than it is.

Prices and costs

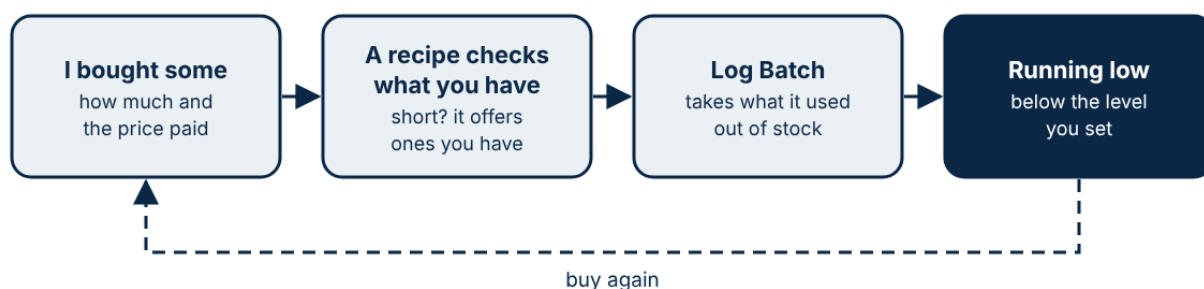
To have recipes show what a batch and each bar cost you, give your ingredients a price. Enter the **Package Size** you buy, in whatever units it is sold in, and the **Package Cost**. Soap Studio works out the cost per gram from those, and every recipe and batch using the ingredient is costed from then on.

If you buy something by volume - millilitres or litres - enter its density as well, or the price is worked out as if a millilitre weighed a gram, and the app says so.

Under **Supplier Details** you can keep the **Brand**, **Supplier**, a **Web Link** to the product page, and the **INCI Name** used on labels. All of it is optional.

Tracking your stock (optional)

STOCK, IF YOU TRACK IT



Optional: turn on Track my stock in Settings. Ingredients you never record are left out, not counted as empty.

Stock, if you track it: I bought some, a recipe checks what you have, Log Batch takes it out, running low, buy again.

If you want Soap Studio to keep count of what you have, turn on **Track my stock** in Settings. Each ingredient then gains a **Stock** section:

- **I bought some** records a purchase: how much and the price paid. The cost per gram becomes the average of what you have paid.
- **I've counted it** sets the amount on hand after a stocktake.
- **Warn me below** sets the level at which it shows as running low.

When you log a batch, the ingredients it used are taken out of stock automatically. If a recipe needs more of something than you have, the recipe says so - "You're short 120 g of Shea Butter for this batch" - and offers similar oils, or other fragrances or colours, that you do have.

Ingredients you have never recorded stock for are left out of these checks rather than counted as empty.

Hiding and deleting

Your own ingredients can be deleted. Ingredients supplied with Soap Studio can be **hidden** instead: a hidden ingredient leaves your list and the recipe pickers, but stays in any recipe that already uses it, and updates never bring it back. Once anything is hidden, a **Hidden** chip appears first among the chips along the top; choose it to list them, and turn **Hidden** off on an ingredient's screen to bring it back.

Updates to the shipped library

From time to time an update to Soap Studio corrects a figure in the shipped library - a SAP value or a density, say. Your own changes always win: an update never overwrites a figure you have edited. Where the shipped figure and yours differ on something that matters, Ingredients shows a row such as **1 change to review**, so you can compare the two and choose which to keep.

The same review gathers any ingredient that appears more than once in your library with differing details, so you can combine the copies or keep them apart.

Bringing ingredients in and out

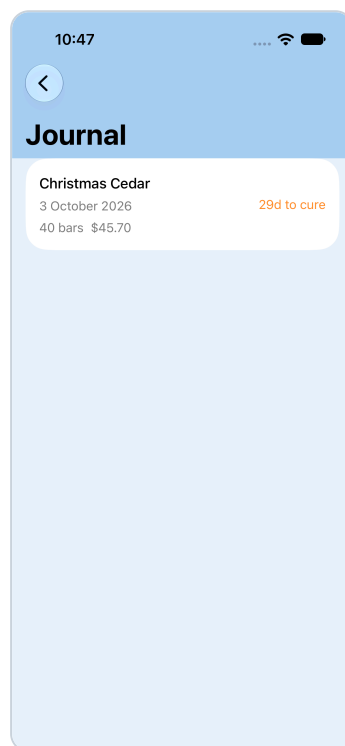
At the top of the Ingredients screen, beside +, the ... (More) button holds two choices:

Export as a spreadsheet saves your whole library as a CSV file that opens in Excel or Numbers. It makes a good backup, and a good template: it imports straight back in, so exporting first is the easiest way to see which columns an import can use.

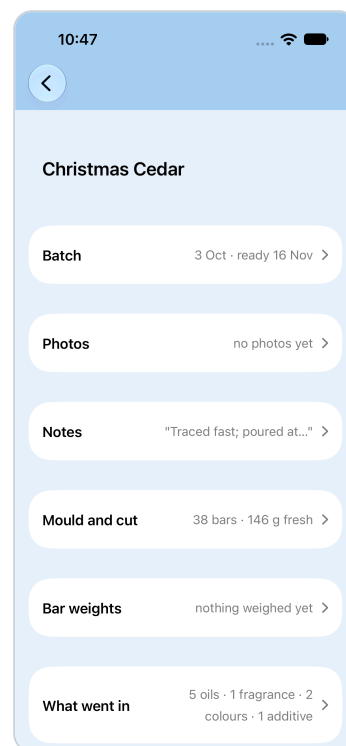
Import from a spreadsheet brings in ingredients, prices and stock from another app or your own list. Save the spreadsheet as a CSV file first - Excel, Numbers and Google Sheets can all do this. You match its columns to Soap Studio's, and nothing changes until you have checked exactly what the import will do. An import never changes the SAP or other chemistry of an ingredient you already have.

7. The Journal

The Journal is your soapmaking diary. Every batch you make can have a page: what went in, the mould and how you cut it, what it cost, how it cured, your notes and photos. It is meant to feel like a notebook, not a form - fill in as much or as little as you like, whenever suits: at the bench, from your paper notes next week, or never.

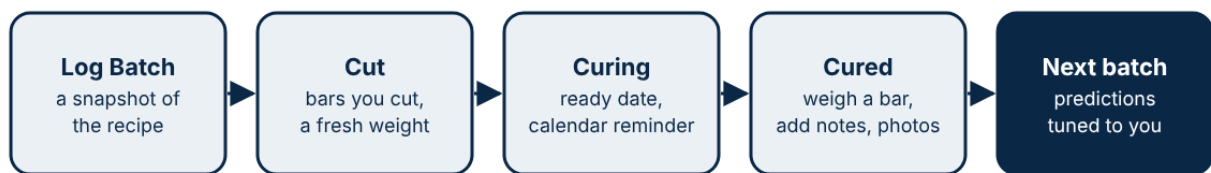


The Journal



A batch's page

A BATCH'S LIFE IN THE JOURNAL



Fill in as much or as little as you like, whenever suits - nothing is required.

Prices are kept as they were on the day, so a later price rise never rewrites the batch's cost.

Label details and a printed batch sheet come from the same snapshot.

A batch's life in the Journal: log it, cut, curing, cured, and the next batch's predictions tuned to you.

Logging a batch

When you make a recipe, choose **Log Batch** in its results. Soap Studio takes a snapshot of the recipe exactly as it is - every ingredient, weight and setting - so the batch record never changes even if you edit or delete the recipe later.

The batch gets a **batch code** made from the date, such as 261015-1 for the first batch on 15 October 2026. You can change it; it is printed on the batch sheet and is handy for labels.

If you track stock, logging the batch takes its ingredients out of stock, and you can note the supplier's lot number for each if you keep them.

Logging a batch

A batch's page

Each batch's page is made of sections you can open and close. Soap Studio fills in everything it already knows; the rest is waiting for you.

What went in - every ingredient and its weight, the lye solution and the water, from the snapshot.

Mould and cut - the mould, how it was cut, and the planned bars, written as a sentence. Record the **bars you cut**: if a bar broke or you trimmed more than planned, the cost per bar follows the real count.

Bar weights - Soap Studio predicts what a bar should weigh freshly cut and fully cured. Weigh a bar on the day you cut and again when it has cured, and enter both. Over time the app compares its predictions with your real bars and corrects its cure predictions to suit the way your soap cures.

Cost and pricing - the batch cost and the cost per bar, using prices as they were on the day you logged it, so a later price rise does not rewrite history. If you had not entered prices then, **Fill in today's prices** fills in

only what is missing. Add a **Sell price** to see your markup and the profit on the batch.

Soaping conditions - the lye and oil temperatures, the room temperature and the humidity, if you like to keep them.

Notes - anything you want to remember: how it traced, how it gelled, what you would change.

Photos - add as many as you like, from your photo library or, on an iPhone or iPad, straight from the camera. Choose one as the **cover** for the Journal list.

Label details - the facts a soap label needs, each ready to copy on its own, or all at once with **Copy all**: the ingredients in order, the INCI names, the batch code and the dates. Paste them into your label app, Pages or anywhere that accepts pasted text.

Curing

Soap Studio estimates how long each batch needs to cure, from its recipe, and shows the date it will be ready and the days left. Choose **Add a cure reminder to your calendar** and your calendar will remind you on the day. (The first time, your device asks whether Soap Studio may use your calendar.)

The Journal list shows each batch with its ready date, so you can see at a glance what is curing and what is ready.

The batch sheet

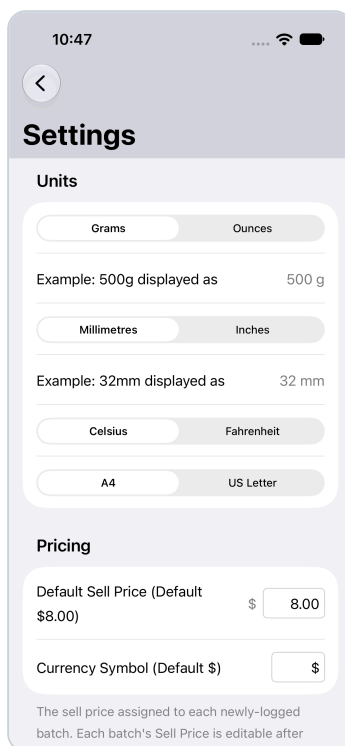
Print makes a batch sheet: the record of the batch from its own snapshot, with the photo if you choose, and spaces to write in the bars you cut, the bar weights and the date it cured if you prefer to work on paper first.

Deleting a batch

Deleting a batch asks first, and if you track stock, asks whether to put its ingredients back into stock or leave stock as it is.

8. Settings

Settings holds the choices that apply across the whole app. Everything here has a sensible starting value, so you need only visit it to change something.



Settings on the
iPhone

Units

Weight Units - grams or ounces. **Length Units** - millimetres or inches. Each shows an example of how a figure will look. **Temperature Units** - Celsius or Fahrenheit, for the soaping temperatures you record on a batch. Changing any of them changes how every figure is shown, everywhere, straight away; nothing saved is altered or rounded, so you can switch back and forth freely.

Paper Size - A4 or US Letter, for the recipe and batch sheets.

Pricing

Currency Symbol - the symbol shown with every price (\$ unless you change it). **Default Sell Price** - the price per bar a new batch starts with, which you can change on each batch.

Batter Volume

Percent-mode recipes are sized so the batter exactly fills your mould.

Volume adjustment tuning adds a small deliberate surplus on top - a couple of percent is useful insurance when one batch is split across several moulds, so none comes up short. At 0% (the default) the batch fills the mould exactly.

Defaults for New Recipes

The values every new recipe starts with: **Default Mode** (Percent, Weight or Total Oil Weight), **Default Superfat**, **Default Water Mode** and **Default Water Value**, **Default Chelator**, the default NaOH and KOH purities, and the default strengths of a masterbatched lye. Changing them affects new recipes only; recipes you have already made keep their own settings. A recipe saved from Soap Designer starts from these too.

Stock

Track my stock turns on stock tracking (chapter 6). Off by default.

Calendar

Soap cure calendar - which of your calendars cure reminders go into. The first time, your device asks whether Soap Studio may use your calendar; if you said no, Settings explains how to turn it back on.

Ingredient Data

Restore bundled ingredient data puts the saponification, density, iodine, INS and fatty-acid figures on every shipped ingredient back to Soap Studio's own values. It never touches your costs, stock, notes, supplier details or Common Oils, nor any ingredient you created. It asks before doing anything.

iCloud Sync

A sentence telling you whether your devices are being kept in step, and if not, why not and what to do. Chapter 9 explains more.

About

The version of Soap Studio you are running - worth including when you report a problem.

Importing and exporting your ingredients is on the Ingredients screen, under its ... button (chapter 6).

9. Your devices and iCloud

How syncing works

If you are signed in to iCloud on your devices, Soap Studio keeps your recipes, moulds, ingredients, batches and settings in step between them automatically. There is nothing to set up and no account to create; it uses your own iCloud, and nobody else - including us - can see your data.

Settings > **iCloud Sync** tells you whether syncing is on. If it is off, it says why: you are not signed in to iCloud, iCloud storage is full, or iCloud could not be reached when the app started. Whatever the reason, the app works normally and everything is saved on the device you are using; syncing picks up again once the cause is fixed.

Without iCloud, or without a connection, Soap Studio works completely. Changes you make offline are sent when the device is next online.

Seeing changes from another device

On an iPhone or iPad, changes from your other devices appear on their own within a few seconds.

On a Mac, changes arrive when you bring Soap Studio to the front. If the app has been sitting open in the background while you worked on your phone, switch to another app and back - or click its icon in the Dock - and the changes come in. Clicking inside the window when Soap Studio is already the front app does not do this. This is an iCloud limitation not an app limitation.

If a recipe you have open is changed on another device:

- if you have not touched it, it simply updates;

- if you have unsaved edits, the recipe says so: "This recipe was changed on another device. Save to keep your version, or Discard to see the other one."
- if it was deleted on the other device, the recipe says so and **Save As New Recipe** keeps your copy.

Unsaved work

Soap Studio keeps an unsaved recipe, mould, blend or Soap Designer workspace when you move to another part of the app, so you can look something up and come back to it.

On a Mac, quitting with an unsaved recipe, mould or blend asks first - "Do you want to save the changes to ...?", or for one never saved, "Do you want to save this new recipe?" - with **Save**, **Don't Save** and **Cancel**. Soap Designer is a scratch pad, so it is not asked about.

The Mac window

The Mac remembers its window: Soap Studio reopens at the size and in the place you left it, on the same monitor if you use more than one. If that monitor is no longer connected, the window opens in the middle of your main screen.

10. For beta testers

Thank you for helping test Soap Studio before it reaches the App Store. This chapter explains how to install the test version, how updates arrive, and how to tell us when something goes wrong - which is the most useful thing you can do.

What you need

Soap Studio needs iOS 26, iPadOS 26 or macOS 26, or later. You can check in Settings > General > About on an iPhone or iPad, or in the Apple menu > About This Mac on a Mac.

Test versions are delivered through Apple's free **TestFlight** app, which you install from the App Store like any other app. You need it on every device you want to test on.

Installing Soap Studio

You will receive either an email invitation or a link.

1. On the device you want to test on, install **TestFlight** from the App Store.
2. Open the invitation email and tap or click **View in TestFlight**, or tap the link you were sent.
3. TestFlight opens at Soap Studio. Choose **Accept**, then **Install**.
4. Soap Studio appears with your other apps. Test versions show a small orange dot beside the name, so you can tell them apart.

To test on another device, repeat these steps on that device with the same invitation. You can install the test version on up to 30 devices.

Updates

New test versions arrive through TestFlight, usually with a short note saying what has changed. When you first open TestFlight it offers to install updates automatically; we suggest you say yes, so you are always testing the latest version. If you prefer to update by hand, open TestFlight and choose **Update** beside Soap Studio.

Each test version works for 90 days. TestFlight shows how many days are left under the app's name. A newer version will normally arrive long before that.

Your recipes during testing

Your recipes, moulds, ingredients and batches are kept on your device and, if you are signed in to iCloud, shared between your devices exactly as they will be in the finished app.

This is a test version, so please do not rely on it alone for anything you cannot afford to lose. If a recipe matters to you, print it or keep a copy elsewhere as well.

Telling us about a problem

Anything that confuses you is worth reporting, not only things that break. If you had to stop and wonder what a word meant or where something was, we want to hear about it.

The quickest way: a screenshot. While Soap Studio is open, take a screenshot the usual way. Tap the small picture that appears in the corner, then choose **Share Beta Feedback**. Add a sentence or two and send it. You can draw on the screenshot first to point at the problem.

On a Mac, take the screenshot, click the picture that appears in the corner of the screen, and choose **Send Beta Feedback** from the Share menu.

Without a screenshot: open TestFlight, choose Soap Studio, then **Send Beta Feedback**.

If the app crashes, TestFlight may ask whether to send the details. Please say yes, and add a line about what you were doing at the time. The crash report alone tells us where the app failed; your line tells us how it got there.

What helps most in any report:

- which device you were using;
- what you were doing, step by step;
- what you expected to happen, and what happened instead;
- whether it happens again if you repeat the steps.

You can also write to us through the Contact page at soapstudio.app.

When Soap Studio reaches the App Store

We will let every tester know when the finished app is available, and what to do next.