

Salted Ice Candles



What causes frost to form? Why are days darker during the winter? What is the winter solstice all about? And what's the connection between ice and snow? Making salted ice candles is a fun and beautiful way to explore these uniquely-winter curiosities while creating a beautiful craft that can be kept or given as a gift.

MATERIALS

- Mason Jar
 - Epsom Salt
 - Mod Podge or (Glue + Water)
 - Paint Brush
 - Votive or Tea Light Candle
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- *Optional:*
 - *Twine or ribbon*
 - *Various greenery, leaves, berries, feathers, etc.*



STEPS

- 1) If you don't have Mod Podge, you can make your own! All it takes is glue and water in the right proportions ([see recipe here](#)).
- 2) Pour a generous amount of Epsom salt onto a plate and set it aside.
- 3) Begin to paint your jar with Mod Podge and make sure it is fully coated with a thick layer.
- 4) Let it dry for 2-3 minutes, as this helps the Mod Podge get tacky.
- 5) Pick up your jar from the mouth and the bottom ends and gently roll it in the salt on the plate, ensuring all the surface area is "salted."
- 6) Optional: When dry, tie twine or ribbon around the neck and attach various natural items to the ends for decoration.
- 7) Pour about one inch of salt into the jar, as this will help hold your candle in place.
- 8) Place a candle inside, light it, and enjoy the frosted glow of your Salted Ice Candle!
- 9) Variations: Want to create a frosty design instead of a fully frosted jar? Just paint your chosen design onto the jar with Mod Podge instead of the entire container and roll that part of it in the salt!



OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANDED LEARNING

Go on a Frost Walk!

Even in Southern California, some winter mornings get cold enough to form frost on grass and car windows! Wake up early together on a cold winter morning, bundle up, and go on a walk to see if you can find any frost! Where has it formed and why? What do you notice about it? What do you wonder about it? What does it remind you of?

What Causes Frost to Form?

Frost forms when an outside surface cools past the dew point. The dew point is the point where the air gets so cold, the water vapor in the atmosphere turns into liquid. This liquid freezes. If it gets cold enough, little bits of ice, or frost, form. The ice is arranged in the form of ice crystals. Learn more [HERE](#).

-National Geographic Society

What's the Connection Between Ice & Salt?

Salt lowers the freezing point of water! Ice melts faster when salt is added as the salt lowers the freezing point of the water. This is known as freezing point depression. The more salt you add the lower the freezing point.

Learn more [HERE](#).

-Science Sparks

Why Are Winter Days Darker?

Due to this axial tilt, the Earth receives different amounts of sunlight in different seasons. During Earth's orbit in the summer months, the top of the Earth (the Northern Hemisphere) is tilted toward the sun, giving us longer days. In winter, the Northern Hemisphere points away from the sun, resulting in fewer hours of sunshine and shorter days. Learn more [HERE](#).

-Children's Museum Indianapolis

What is the Winter Solstice All About?

The winter solstice marks the exact moment when half of the earth is tilted farthest away from the sun. Because less sunlight reaches the earth on this day, the winter solstice is also the day of the year with the least amount of daytime. This makes it the darkest day of the year, after which the sun and light begin to return to us little by little which each day becoming a bit brighter and longer. To honor the darkness and celebrate the earth's shift toward returning light, cultures around the world light candles, hold bonfires, and celebrate with various other forms of light-bringing. You can light your Salted Ice Candle on December 21st to celebrate the solstice too! Learn more [HERE](#).



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