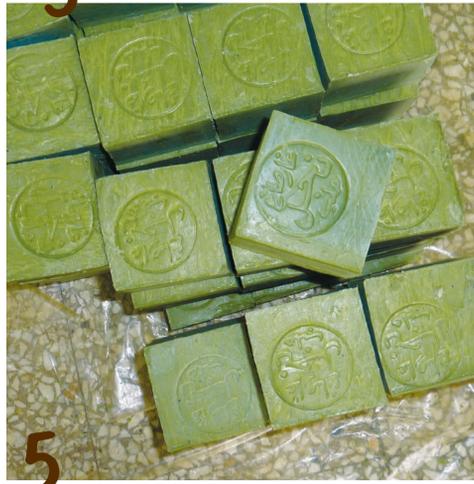


NAJEL

THE MAKING OF ALEPPO SOAP

Aleppo Soap Masters since 1895, Al Najjar family has passed on from generation to generation their traditional craftsmanship to produce the famous Aleppo Soap, which is protected as a geographical indication. For centuries, from late November to late February, the making of the world's first hard soap, has been repeated following an unchanged process.



Phase 1. The saponification process begins by heating water and sodium hydroxide in a huge cauldron 1 to a specific temperature. We add olive oil which is left to heat for 12 hours, then left to stand. One of our main assets is that we heat by steam distillation which means we can control the temperature. If the temperature is too high, the oils lose their properties.

Phase 2. The next day, we heat the contents of the cauldron, whilst mixing it and add bay laurel oil (which has first been filtered).

Phase 3. The entire preparation is then rinsed with salted water several times to remove any trace of caustic substances. The water is then removed from the cauldron and recycled. These stages are part of the saponification process: the oil is transformed into soap molecules by a natural chemical reaction between the oils and the sodium hydroxide 2.

CUTTING

Phase 4. The resulting soap paste is spread in a basin and smoothed at the surface 3. Once solidified, it is hand cut into blocks of soap 4. Each soap is then hand stamped with our Najel trademark 5 and 6.



Phase 5. The soaps are then lifted little by little onto pallets and divided by percentage of bay laurel oil 7 before being put in ventilated cellars, away from the sun. So begins the 9 months drying process. During this time, the soaps oxidize at the surface and take on a yellow/brown color whilst retaining an olive green color on the inside 8. The drying process is essential to improve the quality of Aleppo Soap. It allows the water to evaporate, in order to solidify the soap and ensure a long useful life.

SAPONIFICATION TRANSFORMATION

AUTHENTIC ALEPPO SOAP

DRYING PROCESS

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