

# How to Evaluate a Beeswax Sample

If your beeswax supplier provides a sample, closely evaluate the following:

## *Color & Scent*

If you're purchasing yellow beeswax with natural color and honey smell preserved, make sure it looks and smells as expected. Pure beeswax should have a faint honey scent. You may even be able to smell traces of what the bees pollinated – prairie grasses, wildflowers, etc. Avoid anything that smells like chemicals or plastic, which would mean the beeswax is low quality or has been adulterated with another substance like paraffin. An easy test: If it smells like a crayon, it contains paraffin.

## *Feel*

If the beeswax has been "cut" with additives like paraffin, it'll have excessive waxiness and flakiness. A "pure beeswax" sample we once received from a company in China practically fell apart in our hands. It felt like paraffin wax, and there was little to no honey scent.

## *Texture*

Break your beeswax apart and look at how it crumbles. If the break is smooth, it has likely been "cut." Because of its natural oils, pure beeswax will have a more textured separation.



## *Bloom*

Leave the beeswax for about a week or two and check for something called bloom. The natural oils in pure beeswax will rise to the surface and create a film, which can be wiped away with a cloth. Bloom appears much slower when the beeswax has been "cut."

