

## Soapstone Carving Instructions

1. Fill a small container or bowl with approximately 1 inch of water.

2. Use a pencil to lightly draw details on the shape (optional).



3. Place the shape in the water. This will help to soften the soapstone and to reduce the amount of dust created. Throughout steps 4-6, be sure to dip the shape, as well as the pieces of sandpaper, into the water quite often.

4. Use the coarsest sandpaper (100 grit) to round the edges of the shape and to add definition. The piece of sandpaper can be folded to reach smaller areas of the soapstone shape. You can also use a small tool like a sharp nail or a paper clip to add details.

5. Use the medium sandpaper (320 grit) to polish the soapstone and remove scratches. Again, the sandpaper can be folded and must be dipped in the water. The soapstone should lather up and become very slippery and smooth. All scratches must be removed with this piece of sandpaper before moving on to the next step.

6. Use the last piece of sandpaper (600 grit) to further polish the soapstone. This piece of sandpaper will not remove any scratches.

7. Let the soapstone shape dry completely before applying the oil (not included).

8. Use a cotton pad to apply canola oil, vegetable oil or coconut oil to the shape to preserve the colour and to add a protective coating. Oil might need to be reapplied in the future if the shape loses its lustre.

