

# Making Smoke

## Bombs



### Smoke Bomb Materials

- sugar (sucrose or table sugar)
- potassium nitrate,  $\text{KNO}_3$ , also known as saltpeter (you can find this at some garden supply stores in the fertilizer section, some pharmacies carry it too)
- skillet or pan
- aluminum foil

### Directions:

Take aluminum foil about 15" x 15" and fold 4x then bend the ends up making a small rectangular pan, that's what you put your mixture in. Then you place in pan.

1. Pour about 3 parts potassium nitrate to 2 parts sugar into the skillet (5:3 ratio is also good). Measurements don't need to be exact, but you want more  $\text{KNO}_3$  than sugar. For example, you can use 1-1/2 cups  $\text{KNO}_3$  and 1 cup sugar. If you use equal amounts of  $\text{KNO}_3$  and sugar, your smoke bomb will be harder to light and will burn more slowly. As you approach the 5:3  $\text{KNO}_3$ :sugar ratio, you get a smoke bomb that burns more quickly.
2. Apply low heat to the pan. Stir the mixture with a spoon using long strokes. If you see the grains of sugar starting to melt along the edges where you are stirring, remove the pan from the heat and reduce the temperature before continuing.
3. Basically you are caramelizing sugar. The mixture will melt and become a caramel or chocolate color. Continue heating/stirring until the ingredients are liquefied. Remove from heat.
4. Pour the liquid onto a piece of foil. You can pour a smaller amount onto a separate piece, to test the batch. You can pour the smoke bomb into any shape, onto an object, or into a mold. The shape and size will affect the burning pattern.

5. If you aren't going to clean your skillet immediately, pour hot water into the pan to dissolve the sugar (or else it will be harder to clean). Clean up any residue you may have spilled out of the pan, unless you want mini-smoke bombs on your stovetop.
6. Allow the smoke bomb to cool, then you can peel it off the foil.

Do not make in your house trust me I got a first degree burn on my thumb trying to get it out of the house when the stove ignited it. It takes about 3 hours for the smoke to get out of your house also. These smoke bombs burn at a high temp. so you could very easily burn your house down.

I prefer to just buy them its alot easier and not as risky but more power to you if you want to experience making your own. These are the kind I like. They work great.

