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One of the best ways to achieve great looking skin is to clean your pores from the inside out. The best way to do this is by using clay. Cosmetic clay is one of the best ways to care for your skin! There are so many different varieties of clays available today, but some are more suitable for certain skin types than others. Well, I'm here to give you the 411 on clays and how they can benefit you in terms of personal use as well as give your product line an extra special, yet budget-friendly ingredients to use in your facial, body & soap products.

Before recorded history began, people have been using clays both internally and externally to maintain health in humans, plants and animals. Cosmetic clays are used extensively in facial, body and hair care products and these particular clays all provide the same service. Basically explained, they adsorb and they absorb. When made into a masque and then applied to the hair or skin, clay ADSORBS (attracts) toxins to its extensive molecular surface area and then ABSORBS them into its molecular structure. When the masque is removed, so are the toxins, therefore refreshing the treated area.

Clays are now used extensively in cold-process soap making. Not only do you receive the beneficial treatment that clay gives to your skin, but the end product is a beautiful, naturally-colored soap. Your soap takes on the color of the clay, usually in a more muted tone depending on the color of the clay and how much you use. Usually, 1 tsp. to 1 tbsp. is enough to make a 4lb batch, but more or less can be added to achieve desired color.

The following is a short description of some of the most popular clays used in cosmetic applications and in spas around the world. I have also noted which ones are best suited different skin types.

Rhassoul Clay - Rhassoul Clay is found deep beneath the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. It has been used for over 1,400 years as a natural beauty treatment for skin and hair. It is reddish-brown in color and actually resembles dirt. This particular clay is much more absorbent than other cosmetic clays, which makes it superior in cleansing and detoxifying the skin and is also very helpful for people with oily hair. Rhassoul Clay contains higher percentages of silica, magnesium, potassium, calcium and other trace minerals than other clays. With its high ionic exchange, it actually absorbs impurities, such as heavy metals, in the skin and replaces them with these minerals. Studies have shown that after only a single use of a Rhassoul treatment, the skin was greatly benefited. Dryness, flakiness, elasticity, clarity and texture were all improved by an impressive 24-106%! Spas world-wide are using this particular clay in many of their facial and body treatments and with great success. Rhassoul will make a beautiful, earthy looking soap. Try adding Tea Tree Oil to the mix to make it truly therapeutic. *Rhassoul clay is recommended for people with oily skin and hair.*

French Green Clay – Also known as Illite Clay or Sea Clay, this is a premium Pharmaceutical Grade clay from France which owes its lovely green color to iron oxides and plant matter. Like most commercially sold clays,

French Green Clay is mined and then sun-dried to remove all traces of water. This mineral-rich clay is used widely in cosmetic treatments and soap making. It is a beautiful addition to cold process soap for creating swirls. *French Green Clay is best suited for people with oily skin & hair.*

French Red Clay – This clay is found in Hematite Iron and owes its beautiful brick-red coloring to the copper oxides in this rock. It is used in making poultices, masques, baths, creams and soaps. It gives products a brick reddish colour and makes a lovely soap. In cold process soap it is used for creating swirling effects. *French Red Clay is best suited for people with oily skin & hair.*

French Pink Clay – Most clay looks like, well.....dirt, but this unique clay is a beautiful pink color! This clay has the same deep cleansing properties as with other clays; however it is *more suitable for sensitive skin*. It is widely used in bath & body powders, face masques, soap, lip stick, foundation make-up and blush etc. It has an 89% water absorption capacity and using 1 tbsp. per 4 lb. soap batch makes a beautiful pink soap. As with the other French clays above, it can be used to create swirls in cold process soap making.

Kaolin Clay (White) - Also known as "China White Clay", it is used in body products to aid in covering ability and to absorb oils from the skin. It is used in bath and body powders as a talc replacement, face masks, soap, makeup and many other applications. *This clay is suited to people with normal, dry or sensitive skin.*

The Dead Sea is another one of nature's gifts to us. The Dead Sea is actually a huge lake, which is not connected to any other body of water and gets its name because its high salinity does not allow any aquatic organisms, such as water plants or fish, to live in it. It is the saltiest body of water in the world and is said to contain ten times more minerals than ocean salt. The Dead Sea is located at the lowest point on planet Earth. Sitting 400 meters below sea level, it is the closest place to the centre of the Earth. Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt, believed so strongly in the benefits of the Dead Sea that she had two cosmetic factories built on the shore of the sea and ancient remnants of them can still be found today.

Because of the tropical climate of the area surrounding the Dead Sea and the small amount of precipitation it receives each year, the Dead Sea evaporates at a high rate. As it evaporates, it graciously leaves behind its cornucopia of minerals and salts in the mud at the bottom of the sea. This mud is extracted and then removed of all its impurities giving us Dead Sea Mud.

Our **Dead Sea Mud** contains the same healing mineral mix as **Dead Sea Salts**, which is combined with the natural detoxifying functions of clays, giving the user a very effective skin treatment. *Dead Sea Mud is recommended for all skin types* and along with being used as a skin rejuvenating treatment it is also used as a treatment for the relief of various aches and pains. When heated and then applied it is said to relieve pain associated with joint inflammation and morning stiffness.

THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS & NEW ARRIVALS:

Good news everyone! Our Oval Foam Bottles are back in stock! Many of you have been looking for them and they're back! Phytokeratin, is another item we have just received. This protein is a plant derived protein that is great for all natural hair care, and skin care products. We have also received Frosted Princess Tottles, These lovelies have a dispensing cap on them and are perfect for lotions or hair care products. We have most of the items mentioned above and select others on special this week; please check them all out at:

<http://www.voyageursoapandcandle.com/store/browse.asp?cat=ofer>

Remember that everything we sell is available in case quantities, so as your business grows we want to be there for you.

CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Spring Break is coming and if you're looking for something fun to do with your child, we've got a couple of fun classes you will not want to miss! Children, 9 years and up will enjoy our Bathing Essentials-All Wrapped Up class. Bath time is the theme here and you will be making bath bombs, bubble bath and other fun items. For the teens we have our Step by Step Facial Class, where you will be creating such items as a Papaya Facial Scrub, Detoxifying Crème Cleanser and other neat skin care products. Come in and join the good CLEAN fun!

We are happy to announce that due to its popularity, we have added yet ANOTHER Mineral Makeup & More class for Saturday, April 12.

Be sure to reserve your spot early as our classes tend to fill up quickly. To check out the schedule go to: http://www.voyageursoapandcandle.com/Class_Schedule/default.asp

Here are some simple clay masque recipes for you to try. You and/or your customers will love the results.....beautiful, rejuvenated skin! Keep in mind that clay masques are very versatile as to what ingredients can be added. Try using a few drops of your favorite essential oil!

Rejuvenating Rhassoul Masque for Oily or Combination Skin

3 TBSP. Rhassoul Clay
1 TSP. Green Tea Extract
1 TSP. Silk Amino Acid
2 TBSP. Lavender Hydrosol (floral water)

French Pink Masque- For Normal/Sensitive or Dry Skin

2 TBSP. French Pink Kaolin Clay
2 TBSP. White Kaolin Clay
1 TSP. Chrysanthemum Extract
1 TSP. Cucumber Extract
1 TSP. Honeysuckle Extract
1 TSP. Cromoist Oat Protien (hydrolyzed oats)
1.5 TBSP. Rose Hydrosol (floral water)

These recipes make enough for one facial application. If you are going to be using the recipe to make larger batches for resale, a preservative should be added.

Well, the days are getting longer and spring is on the way! Hang in there everyone and remember to turn your clocks up an hour on Saturday night. Thank you so much for your business and for making our jobs enjoyable each and every day.

If you have any questions or concerns or you do not wish to receive our email updates anymore, please email us at service@voyageursoapandcandle.com or simply give us a call at 604-530-8979 or toll-free at 1-800-758-7773.

Sincerely,

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