

# Tips for Acid Etching

1. I used regular black beeswax on my etched goose egg. PysankyUSA makes a green beeswax specifically for etching that is tackier than regular beeswax. This is good because the etched egg will be in acid and will be brushed making it easier for the wax to come off.
  2. I like to use Acid Magic to etch my eggs. It works quickly, has fewer fumes, and doesn't instantly burn your skin. You can use The Works toilet bowl cleaner. Use The Works outdoors because the fumes can corrode metals. Be sure to remove all jewelry and wear gloves and long sleeves. The Works also acts quickly. You can also use vinegar to etch your eggs. Vinegar comes from 5 to 20% acetic acid. No fumes with vinegar, but it works slowly.
  3. It is important to keep your wax and egg warm. My studio is in the basement, so to keep my egg warm I use a gooseneck lamp with the bulb bent down next to my egg. If the wax and/or the egg is not warm enough, the wax may pop off in the acid solution.
  4. When using Acid Magic or The Works be sure your hands are protected with gloves. Be sure the acid is at room temperature. Submerge your waxed egg into the acid for 15 seconds. Rinse the egg in room temperature water to stop the acid action. Gently brush the egg all over with a soft baby toothbrush to remove debris. Inspect the egg to be sure none of the wax was removed. Reapply wax if needed.
- When using vinegar, follow the step above but submerge your egg for 15 minutes.
5. Repeat step 4 as many times as needed to achieve as deep an etch as you desire. I etched my goose egg in Acid Magic for a total of 3 to 4 minutes. Every egg is different. Use your best judgment.
  6. When you are done etching, brush your egg all over gently using a soft baby toothbrush with a mixture of baking soda and water. The baking soda will neutralize the action of the acid. Rinse your egg with room temperature water and let dry.
  7. Before removing the wax from your egg, completely cover the egg with vegetable or olive oil. This should keep the wax from collecting in nooks and crannies and prevent any staining from soot from a candle.
  8. You can remove the wax from your egg in several ways: a warm oven, the flame of a candle, or a heat gun.
  9. You can use mineral spirits to remove any waxy residue or pencil marks remaining on your egg.
  10. Now you are ready to varnish your egg if you so desire! Enjoy your masterpiece!