

Soap Diagnostic Checklist (PRINTABLE)

Why isn't my soap performing as expected?

Soap Performance Check

✨ Skin Feel

- Does your soap feel tight or dry after use?
 - → Check cleansing fatty acids & superfat level
- Does it feel coated or heavy on the skin?
 - → Check superfat level & overall balance

🧼 Lather

- Is lather weak or slow to form?
 - → Check lauric/myristic levels
- Is lather big but disappears quickly?
 - → Add stabilising fatty acids (castor / creamy balance)
- Is lather creamy but lacks bubbles?
 - → Increase bubbly fatty acids slightly

🧱 Hardness & Longevity

- Is the bar too soft?
 - → Check water content & cure time
- Does it dissolve quickly in use?
 - → Increase hard fatty acids & review formulation
- Does it stay wet on the soap dish?
 - → Improve drainage + formulation balance

🕒 Cure & Stability

- Has the soap cured for at least 4–6 weeks?
 - → If not, reassess after full cure
- Are you seeing rancidity (DOS)?
 - → Review high linoleic oils & storage conditions

⚖️ Overall Balance

- Does one quality dominate? (too cleansing, too soft, etc.)
 - → Rebalance fatty acid profile
- Are you trying to fix issues by adding more ingredients?
 - → Step back and simplify

💡 Key Reminder

Most soap issues are not ingredient problems — they are balance problems!