

## MOROCCAN BLACK SOAP

Moroccan black soap differs from typical handcrafted soaps. It also should not be confused with African Black Soap.

Soaponification is a chemical reaction between fats (plant or animal) and a heavy base (like lye). When they are each at the correct temperature, they trade molecules and become soap.

Soap made in the typical method with Sodium Chloride generally needs to age. The aging process rids the soap of excess lye. Moroccan Black Soap is made with Potassium Chloride and does not require aging.

Moroccan Black Soap is a soft castille (vegetable) soap paste made with olive oil, sometimes argan oil, and the mash of olive peels left over from pressing olive oil. It's the peels of the olives that make the Moroccan Black Soap so special. African Black Soap is made with shea butter as the plant fat, and is typically a hard soap - though not always shaped into bars.



These photos are from the Sunday Sooq outside of Essaouira, Morocco

(L) Piles of fresh olives ready for pressing (R) Me tasting the fresh pressed olive oil