



Palm Kernel Oil FAQ

How has the formula for your Liquid Castile Soaps changed?

We replaced some of the Fair Trade & Organic Coconut Oil with Fair Trade & Organic Palm Kernel Oil. Specifically, the ratio of the two oils in our soaps will now be about 3 parts coconut oil to 1 part palm kernel oil, with all other oils remaining at the same level.

Why is Palm Kernel Oil now in your Liquid Soap?

As our company continues to grow, we are able to partner with more and more organic & Fair Trade projects around the world, thereby supporting organic farming practices, fair wages, and economic development. Adding Organic & Fair Trade Palm Kernel Oil to our soaps allows us to support the good work being done by Natural Habitats in Ecuador, where small-scale farmers grow oil palms sustainably and receive a fair price for their palm fruits. Because the fatty acid profile of coconut and palm kernel oils are so similar, they can be used interchangeably in soapmaking, where they produce an identical rich and copious lather.

Will the soaps still work as before?

You should notice no changes in the appearance or function of the soap. Because Palm Kernel Oil has a nearly identical fatty acid profile to Coconut Oil, the soap will look and work exactly as before – careful evaluation and blind customer trials have confirmed that using a small amount of palm kernel oil alongside coconut oil results in no change to our soaps' unsurpassed quality.

Is Palm Kernel Oil “sustainable”?

We believe that it's not what you grow, but how you grow it. Our Palm Kernel Oil is certified under IMO's "Fair for Life" program, the most rigorous fair trade and sustainable certification in the world, that also certifies Dr. Bronner's existing fair trade coconut and palm oil sister companies, Serendipol and Serendipalm.

Does growing your Organic Palm Kernel Oil harm rainforests or orangutan habitats?

No, rainforests and orangutan habitats are not harmed in the growing of our Organic Palm Kernel Oil (or for the Palm Oil we use in our bar soaps). Our Organic Palm Kernel Oil originates from small-holder farms in Ecuador, where Oil Palms have been grown for decades, and where they are now harvested by second and third generation farming families. The palms are interspersed throughout the regional forests, blending in with the surroundings to provide a very healthy environment for plant and animal life. Dr. Bronner's has partnered with [Natural Habitats](#) in Ecuador to ensure not only that no deforestation or habitat destruction results from the growing or harvesting process, but that all growing is done organically and sustainably.

We share our customers' concern for the damage being done to rainforests and orangutan habitats through conventional palm farming in Indonesia, and believe that our Organic & Fair Trade Palm Kernel Oil, grown in Ecuador, offers a sustainable alternative.

What's the difference between Palm Oil and Palm Kernel Oil?

While both oils are derived from Oil Palms, Palm Kernel Oil is derived from the seeds of the Oil Palm, while Palm Oil is derived from the fruit. The two oils have different fatty acid compositions and have different applications.