

THE RITUAL USE OF WAX SEALS

by Lunaea Weatherstone

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In ritual, physical items are often used as focusing devices. They can help you channel your inner power, make an offering of devotion, or mark a threshold between the seen and the unseen. Tools that you can hold in your hands help connect your mind and heart to the work of the spirit. They enhance your intention by bringing the physical element to join with the mental and emotional.

Tools that have an ancient tradition and history hold a special appeal, as we connect with the lineage of those who went before. The wax seal you have in your hands now is an ancient tool for ritual use. Sealing wax has been used for centuries as a symbol of power, blessing, and authenticity. Throughout history, people have had personal seals, and a document finished with a seal proclaimed without doubt who authorized it. Handheld seals and signet rings were carved with symbols ranging from simple shapes to elaborate designs incorporating mottos and inscriptions. Kings and queens held the seals of their realms, the ultimate symbol of sovereignty and noble purpose.

Using a seal to hold a document closed acts as proof that it has not been tampered with, adding privacy and secrecy. Wax seals can also be added to amulets and talismans to finalize your magical purpose. The way the wax alters its form from solid to molten and back to solid again symbolizes the action of your own creative fire to bring change and transformation, manifesting your vision in a solid reality. Using wax “seals the deal,” quite literally!

The combination of history, symbolism, and focused intention makes sealing wax a perfect tool for ritual use.

What Is a Ritual?

Humans love ritual—and we need it. When you can see a deeper and more eternal meaning through ritual, you bring that understanding to everything you do. What has been experienced ritually becomes part of you, and you see the world as full of magical potential. You see it as more sacred, and see yourself as sacred as well.

At its heart, ritual is about transformation, magic, and connection to the divine. It is the combination of intention and attention. First comes your *intention*: what you wish for, what you want to change, what you want to honor or give thanks for. The ritual then commands your full *attention*, and whatever you bring your focus to becomes more powerful, completely involving you for the minutes or hours it takes to perform the rite.

If you are a beginner, it is best to do simple rituals at first. As you become more adept, you may be inspired to create more elaborate rituals, great ceremonies or magical workings that may take days to complete. But even for those with years of experience, the most meaningful rituals are often the simple ones, where the heart can engage freely, the mind not be distracted by details, and the spirit can soar. Always keep your rituals positive. Remember, the energy will come back to you magnified. Use your intention to bring beautiful things to yourself and the world.

A good ritual wakes you up and inspires you to stay awake. Sometimes this ritual energy is wild, sometimes it is profoundly still. Ritual work done with sealing wax is quiet and thoughtful—the careful application of flame to wax, focusing to let it drip where you want it, and then the swift placement of the seal to mark your intention with symbolism.



A Ritual to Greet Your Seal

The perfect way to begin doing ritual work with your new seal is to perform a simple ritual to awaken its potential as a tool of power. It invites the seal to join you as an ally, become part of your spiritual or magical practice.

To prepare yourself to enter fully into the ritual experience, spend a few moments releasing worries from your day. When you are in a calm and open state of mind, begin to prepare your ritual setting. Remove all distractions (such as phones). This ritual will be performed while sitting at a table or at your altar. Place a new white candle in the center. You will also need:

A small piece of white cardstock
A pen in a color you like
A small bowl of salt water
Your seal and wax stick

Take a few moments to breathe deeply with your eyes closed. When you feel ready, light the candle and gaze into its flame while holding your seal in your hands. Feel the connection between the seal and your body. Imagine the warmth of your hands adding an element of life to the seal. Place the seal in front of the candle, and write these words on your card:

*I bless this seal, symbol of [Wicca, Magic, Celtic spirit].
May it add its power to my intentions.
May I be ever mindful and respectful of its sacred purpose.
May we work together for the greater good in all we do.*

Pick up the seal, and dip it three times in the salt water, saying aloud each time:

*Be cleansed and purified.
Be blessed and sanctified.*

Gently shake off the excess water. Hold the seal and read the words on the card aloud. Feel the power of their purpose. Take up your sealing wax now, and light it from the candle flame. Drip a small pool of wax onto the center of the card, over your words. Extinguish the wax flame, and press your seal into the molten wax, holding it there while you say:

The purpose of my heart and my hands is joined with this sacred tool.

Lift the seal away, leaving the impression of the symbol in the wax. Keep the card in a safe place to hold your relationship with your new ritual seal. Blow out the candle, and put away your ritual items with respect.



THE SEALS AND THEIR MEANINGS

There are three seals, each with their own symbol and color of wax.

The Seal of Wicca is an eternal knot that symbolizes the Triple Goddess: Maiden, Mother, and Crone. The Maiden Goddess is the power of courage, the spark of innovation, and the freedom of independence. The Mother Goddess brings the ripeness of fertility, the embrace of protection, and the blessings of love. The Crone Goddess offers the wisdom of experience, the challenges of deepening, and the mysteries of time. When these qualities are brought together in one symbol, they hold the meaning of the Wiccan faith in self-direction, divine guidance, and connection to the cycles of life.

The wax used with this seal is purple. Long associated with power, purple is also the color of the seventh (crown) chakra, the energetic center that connects the earthly body to divine spiritual realms.

The Seal of Magic is a pentacle, a five-pointed star within a circle. The five points of the star represent the four elements (Air, Fire, Water, Earth) and Spirit. The circle ties them together and symbolizes wholeness and containment of magical power to be used as you will, always with the highest good in mind for all concerned.

The wax used with this seal is red, the color of energetic transformation and fiery creativity. It is the color of the life-force itself.

The Seal of Celtic Spirit is a triskele, a triple spiral. The spirals emerge from a common center, eternally moving forward. The triskele appears everywhere in Celtic spirituality, both ancient and modern. Among its many meanings are:

Earth, Sea, and Sky

Past, Present, Future

Mind, Body, Spirit

Above, Below, Within

The wax used with this seal is green, the color of the land in which the Celtic spirit finds its source, and the color of nature's healing and blessing.

More Rituals for Your Wax Seal

Each of the three seals has particular ritual uses, which you can adapt for your own needs. One such ritual was included in the booklet that came with your seal. Here are some additional rituals for each seal.



THE SEAL OF WICCA

This seal, with its symbol of the Triple Goddess, is particularly good for rituals involving personal empowerment.

The Maiden's Voice

This ritual calls upon the brave Maiden Goddess to help you speak your truth with courage and forthrightness. It is especially useful when you are facing situations where you feel you are not being heard or respected, such as political protests and gatherings, or when you are in need of clarity in communication with others. You will need a poem, speech, or other writing that speaks to you of power and courage. Choose something that inspires you and charges you up. Print it out on a single sheet of paper (or copy it out by hand, for even more power). You will also need a white candle.

Prepare yourself and your space as described in the introductory ritual above. Begin the ritual by sitting and lighting the candle. Then take your paper in both hands and stand up in a purposeful way, your feet planted firmly on the ground. Hold the paper above your head and say in a clear, strong voice:

*Maiden Goddess, heed my call, your presence I beseech!
Add your courage to my voice, your power to my speech!*

Feel the energy of the Maiden filling you with noble purpose. Then read your paper aloud, letting its words enter your being. Allow some silence afterward, as you feel the power surrounding you. Then sit and light your wax from the candle and apply it over the place in the writing that has the most meaning for you. Press the seal into the wax until it is set. Keep the paper in a safe place to continue to empower you.

The Mother's Bounty

This ritual calls upon the Mother Goddess to bring more prosperity and abundance into your life. It is particularly effective when you are worried and fearful about lack of money. You will need a red candle, a round piece of white paper, a red crayon, and a red apple.

Prepare yourself and your space as described in the introductory ritual above. Begin the ritual by lighting the candle, and say these words:

*I trust in the bounty of the Mother.
I am always cared for.
I am always nurtured.
I am always fed, body and soul.*

With your crayon, slowly color in the white circle of paper until it is completely red. As you do so, repeat words like these: *The Mother always provides. The fruitfulness of the Mother always returns...* When the paper is covered, light your wax from the candle and apply it to the center of the circle. Press the seal into the wax until it is set. When the



wax has cooled, place the apple on top of the wax symbol. Leave it there for 24 hours, then eat the apple as an affirmation that the Mother will always care for your needs. Burn the paper or dispose of it with respect, as the ritual is complete.

The Crone's Whisper

This bedtime ritual is to ask for guidance from the Crone Goddess. It is best done at the dark time of the moon, and is especially powerful when done at Samhain (Halloween). You will need a small piece of paper, a black or purple pen, a black candle, and a bit of dried mugwort. (If you can't get mugwort, lavender will do.)

Prepare yourself and your space as described in the introductory ritual above. Begin the ritual by lighting the candle, and say these words:

*Crone of the Crossroads, guide me, I pray,
Whisper your wisdom to illumine my way.*

Write your question or concern on the paper. Light your wax from the candle and apply it to the center of the paper over the words, making a slightly larger pool than usual. Working quickly, press the seal into the wax and sprinkle the mugwort into the wax around the outside of the seal. When the wax has set and cooled, place the paper under your pillow and listen for the Crone in your dreams.

THE SEAL OF MAGIC

This pentacle seal is intended for ritual spellwork, always with a positive intention!

A Spell to Stop Gossip

This spell is intended to silence those who speak ill of you. It is never performed to harm anyone, just to break the cycle of gossip and restore harmony. You will need a small empty matchbox, a narrow strip of paper long enough to wrap around the box lengthwise, a stone small enough to fit inside the box, and a blue candle.

Prepare yourself and your space as described in the introductory ritual above. Begin by lighting the candle. Place the stone in front of the candle and hold both your hands over it. Feel the energy flow between your hands and the stone as you think of the false or unkind words that have been said against you, and perhaps the words that you too have said of others. Imagine those words being absorbed by the stone. Place it inside the matchbox, close the box, and wrap the strip of paper around it. Light your wax from the candle, and apply the wax to seal the strip of paper closed, pressing the pentacle seal to the wax until it is set. Spend some time gazing into the blue candle and visualizing peace between all the people involved. Then bury the box as far from your home as possible.



A Spell to Protect a Pet

The pentacle is a strong symbol to call upon when you want to protect your precious animal friends. For this spell, you will need a small envelope, a piece of paper, drawing materials, a gold candle, and a bit of your pet's fur (or a feather, or whatever is appropriate).

Prepare yourself and your space as described in the introductory ritual above. If possible, do this spell in the company of your pet. Begin by lighting the candle. Spend a few moments with your eyes closed, holding your pet's image strongly in your mind. Bring all your inner senses to bear, visualizing what your pet looks like, feels like, smells like, sounds like, and is like in terms of its spirit. Open your eyes and draw a picture of your pet on the paper (it can be very simple). Finish by drawing a pentacle over the animal, remembering to enclose the star within a circle. Fold the paper to a size that will fit inside the envelope, then unfold it and place the fur or feather inside. Fold it up again and place it in the envelope. Light your wax from the candle and apply it to seal the envelope, pressing the pentacle seal until it is set. Keep the envelope in a safe and secret place, and know your pet is safe as well.

A Spell of Release

Some spells, like the gossip spell above, are to contain or stop something. Others, like the pet spell, are to bless and protect. But sometimes you just want to get rid of something altogether. This spell can be used to release any kind of negativity, such as bad habits, lingering resentments, and so on. It can also be used when it's time to let go of grief or sad memories, or just to move on from a situation that no longer serves you.

For the first part of this spell, you will need a sheet of waxed (greaseproof) paper, several strands of embroidery thread in a color that symbolizes what you wish to release, and a white candle. To complete the spell, you will need a fireproof container that you can discard afterward (such as a foil pie tin or empty tea-light cup), heatproof tongs, and some small crumpled papers.

Prepare yourself and your space as described in the introductory ritual above. Begin the ritual by lighting the candle. Lay the strands of thread on the waxed paper so they overlap and tangle together. Imagine that they represent what you wish to release, and all the ways in which you have been entangled with that energy to this point. Light your wax from the candle and drip it into a pool over the tangled thread. Press your seal into the wax and hold it there while you say three times:

I have no further need for thee.

Gently lift the seal from the wax when it has set. When it has completely cooled, carefully peel the waxed paper from your wax-and-thread talisman. Use the crumpled papers to light a small fire in the fireproof container, and use the tongs to hold your charm over the flames until it melts again and the threads are burned. Say three times:

As I created you, so I now release you.

Blessed be.

Discard the container with respect and be at peace.



THE SEAL OF CELTIC SPIRIT

This seal's symbol of the triskele will add ancient blessing to any ritual work that invokes the Celtic spirit.

A Ritual to Bless a Journey

Blessings for journeys have a long history among the Celts, and this ritual creates a charm to carry for safe passage there and back again. You will need a white candle, a long narrow strip of paper, and a green pen.

Prepare yourself and your space as described in the introductory ritual above. Begin the ritual by lighting the candle. Lay the paper horizontally before you, and write at the left edge the place you (or the traveler, if it is not you) are leaving from, and at the right edge write the place you are going. In between the two, write these words:

*On land and on water,
by night and by day,
in shade and in sunlight,
may my way be blessed.*

Fold the two ends so they meet at the center, then fold them again to meet at the center, and then once more, overlapping a bit on the last fold. Hold down the edges of the folded paper while you light your wax from the candle, apply it to the paper, and press your seal into place. This charm can be kept in your vehicle or carried with you on your journey.

A Ritual to Bless Your Home

The Celtic goddess Brigid is (among many other things) the protectress of hearth and home. Her presence is invoked in prayers to bless the house itself and all who dwell within. For this home-blessing ritual, you will need a green candle, a small triangular piece of card stock, and a pinch of sea salt (Irish if you can find it).

Prepare yourself and your space as described in the introductory ritual above. Begin the ritual by lighting the candle and saying these words:

*Brigid of the hearth fire,
Brigid of the sheltering roof,
Brigid of the threshold,
I welcome you in.*

Place your hands over the triangle of paper and feel your energy blessing it. Imagine that Brigid herself is working through your hands. Write the following words along the edges of the triangle, one line for each side:



*Bless the hearth,
and bless the herd,
and bless the household all.*

This ancient blessing encompasses the house itself, all the people and animals who live there, and any who visit it with peaceful intentions. Light your wax from the candle and apply it to the center of the triangle. Quickly sprinkle a few grains of salt into the wax and press the seal into it. When the wax has cooled, place or hang the charm in a quiet corner of your home.

A Ritual for Peaceful Sleep

This ritual creates a sleep charm to help you sleep peacefully and arise each morning with a peaceful heart. You will need a lavender candle, a small circle of card stock, a blue pen, and some fairy-dust glitter.

Prepare yourself and your space as described in the introductory ritual above. Begin the ritual by lighting the candle. On one side of the paper, write these words:

*Peace of the morning mist be mine,
peace of the dawn,
and peace of awakening.*

On the other side, write these words:

*Peace of the quiet twilight be mine,
peace of the night,
and peace of sweet slumber.*

Light your wax from the candle and apply it to the “day” side of the charm. Quickly add a sprinkle of the fairy dust, then press your seal into the wax. When it has completely cooled, turn it over and repeat the steps on the “night” side. Finish your ritual by saying:

*Peace is mine
this day and every day,
this night and every night.*

Place the charm under or near your bed and think of its presence as you drift off to sleep and awaken.



COMBINING THE SEALS

There are so many ways you can use the individual seals for ritual and magical use. You can also combine them! For example, you could use the Seal of Magic with the Seal of Celtic Spirit to create a magic spell to be done on a specific Celtic holiday, such as Imbolc. Or use the Seal of Wicca with the Seal of Magic to do a ritual associated with the phases of the moon. Or even use all three seals together, as in the following ritual.

A Ritual for Healing

This ritual invokes the presence of the Triple Goddess to help you work healing magic in the three Celtic realms of the Otherworld, Middle World, and Underworld. You can do this ritual work for yourself; always ask permission before you do it for someone else.

You will need all three seals, one green candle, three white candles (these can be tea-lights), and a round piece of sturdy cardstock.

Prepare yourself and your space as described in the introductory ritual above. Begin your ritual by lighting the green candle. Spend a few moments thinking about what sort of healing is needed. This ritual takes a little more time than the others, so don't rush. Understanding the nature of the healing is what gives the ritual its power.

When you are ready, light your purple wax stick from the candle and apply a pool of wax near the center of the paper circle. Press the Seal of Wicca into the wax, and say:

Be welcome, Maiden Goddess, to this circle of healing.

Be welcome, Mother Goddess, to this circle of healing.

Be welcome, Crone Goddess, to this circle of healing.

Next, light the green wax stick and apply a pool of wax beside the purple wax seal of Wicca. Let the green wax run up against the cooled purple wax so they are connected. Press the Seal of Celtic Spirit into the wax, and say:

Maiden of the Otherworld, heal me with hope.

Mother of the Middle World, heal me with love.

Crone of the Underworld, heal me with rebirth.

Finally, light the red wax stick and apply a third pool of wax above and between the two other wax seals, so together they form a triangle. Press the Seal of Magic into the wax, and say:



*By Earth and Air,
by Fire and Water,
by Spirit of all that unites them,
I open myself to healing.*

Place a white candle next to each of the three seals and light them, giving thanks for the healing that has already begun and will continue. When you have finished the ritual, you can keep the card with the symbols or release it in a respectful way.

