



Rules of Play

Before you dip into the essential pool, heed these tips from expert Amy Galper.

When Diffusing...

"The area should be well ventilated," says Galper, and switch off the diffuser for 40 minutes for every 15 you leave it running (some have timers to do the work for you). Never put sage, cinnamon leaf or bark, thyme, or oregano in a diffuser—their powerful molecules are too strong to be inhaled deeply.

Around Kids...

Never use essential oils on or around children under the age of one—they can be overwhelming to developing lungs. "After one, sweet orange, lavender, chamomile, and cedarwood in a diffuser, or diluted at one drop essential oil to two tablespoons olive oil on their feet and back can be soothing," says Galper.

On Skin

Don't rub essential oils directly on your skin unless they're already in a balm or other premade formula. "Essential oils are made up of a complex collection of molecules and are very potent," says Galper. "A good rule of thumb is to never put an undiluted essential oil on your face or any sensitive area of the body."