

Tips and Hints from pysanky expert Joan Brander

Artist | Author | Instructor | Lecturer



Saving the world one pysanka at a time . . .™

Raw Eggs vs. Empty Eggshells

for pysanky Ukrainian Easter eggs

Since 1991 Joan Brander has been teaching pysanky not only in Canada and the United States, but also across the world to people of all age levels and experience. Using kits, books and supplies from babasbeeswax.com, these include school workshops, multicultural festivals, and community events. Baba's Beeswax has everything you need to make beautiful pysanky the traditional way.

Pysanky can be made with either fresh, raw eggs or empty eggshells. Compare these properties:

Raw Eggs

- ☑ non-edible dyes will penetrate the shell and you cannot use the egg contents
- ☑ raw eggs will definitely break if dropped because of their weight
- ☑ once a raw egg cracks, you can not continue dying it
- ☑ raw eggs will dry out over time—the insides turn to dust
- ☑ years ago there were no tools available for emptying eggs
- ☑ lower your raw egg into the dye gently with a spoon

Empty Eggshells

- ☑ if you empty your eggs first, you can save the egg contents for cooking
- ☑ empty eggshells are less likely to break¹
- ☑ cracks in empty eggshells can be repaired with beeswax
- ☑ pysanky made from empty eggshells may last longer
- ☑ to empty eggs use an egg blower from Baba's Beeswax²
- ☑ use melted beeswax from the kistka to seal the hole and weigh down your empty eggshell with a small jar filled with just enough water to hold the egg under the dye



Select [this link](#) for more information about Joan Brander's pysanky enrichment programs.

¹ Did you know it's almost impossible to crush an empty eggshell in your hand and have it break. You can precede your pysanka workshop with an "egg emptying session" (at home or at school), and some even cook the useable egg contents (in a Ziploc placed with some herbs in boiling water). I think this is a great idea! Useable egg contents can also be frozen for use in cooking and/or baking

² See Pysanka Power Pamphlets from BabasBeeswax.com (digital or paper copies) for useful information, knowledge, hints and money-saving tips covering numerous topics, including the various ways to empty eggs for pysanky