

**Mastering The Magick Of Witchcraft**  
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## **Free Spells For Beginning Witches**

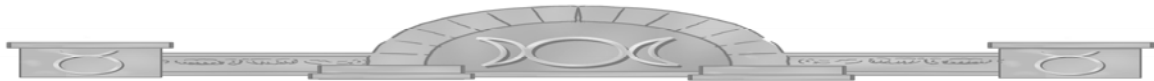
Here are six basic spells to get you started! A rite of purification is an important thing to know, as you can use it to purify your altar and your magical tools. Some purification rituals even work on your body; Isis, for example, is pleased by cleanliness and looks favorably on ritual baths.

One of the most basic elements of purification rites and spells in general is the casting of a protective circle before beginning the casting itself. My favorite way of doing this is to take my athame (ritual blade) and imagine a blue-white light emanating from its tip. I then use it to describe the boundaries of the circle, turning with it as though I were actually drawing in the air. Ask your patron spirits to ward off all evil and negativity while you are casting your spells. You may also want to call the elements as part of your circle casting, which can be as simple as asking representatives of earth, air, fire and water (or whatever elements you are attuned to) to watch over you as you work. They may even aid your magic!

As mentioned above, another type of purification is purification of the self. To prepare a ritual bath, perform the following: (here we call upon Isis as She responds particularly well to ritual baths, but if you feel moved to complete this rite for your deity, insert Their names and traditions where appropriate) gather salt, which can be table, sea, or earth salts. Ask Isis to bless the substance with a simple invocation of Her power. This can be as simple as "Mother Isis, please bless this substance and make it pure." As you complete this and the rest of your preparations, take your time and do your best to cultivate a meditative state of mind.

Once the salt has been blessed, do the same for the water. Take herbs that are sacred to Her or are special to you and boil them as you would a tea. Strain the liquid into your bathwater, preferably calling upon Isis to purify you with this combination of herbs and consecrated water. Step into your bath and submerge as much of your body as you can. Remain in the bath as long as you can, as a purification bath should not be rushed. Afterwards, it is appropriate to oil or honey your skin; L'occitane's Honey Bath Gel is particularly good for this.





A basic banishing spell is also a great tool to have, as you will want to use it every time you move into a new home. Homes frequently have all manner of magical sludge on them, up to and including ghosts, nightmare beings, and negativity vampires. It is best to rid yourself of these things as soon as possible! This ritual can be as simple as taking a bowl of salt water, blessing it, and flinging it throughout the house while calling on your patrons to remove these influences. You may even use your own internal power; often simply asserting that this is now your home and you will not tolerate the presence of negativity is enough.

You may want to follow up your banishing ritual with a blessing ritual for your new home. It can be very similar to the banishing ritual and its exact form will depend on what tradition you follow. It can be serious or tongue in cheek and still have powerful effects. Take a chalice of salt water and purify it. Elder flowers and huckleberry root are associated with this ritual in the Celtic tradition, but you will want to add whatever herbs are associated with blessings and banishment of evil in your tradition to your brew. Sprinkle this brew around the house while invoking positive energies and spirits. My favorite words for this spell come from an old Irish blessing: “may the roof above us never fall in, and the people below it never fall out!”

What about a love spell? In a previous article, I told you how dangerous it is to impede another’s free will. But that doesn’t mean you can’t appeal to the deities! It is important that you choose your language carefully, though; instead of asking, say, Aphrodite to make someone fall for you, ask Her for clarity when it comes to romantic issues. To gain Aphrodite’s attention, offer Her beautiful things. A gorgeous flower would be appropriate, or an abalone shell. Ask her to make your love as beautiful as the offerings you have given Her, and to open the path of romance for you.

Money is another one people frequently want a spell for. Gather around you symbols you associate with money. Green or gold candles, for example, can be particularly helpful to an American witch. Scatter coins at the base of the candles and call on the spirits of prosperity as you light each one.

The most important thing to remember about spells and rituals are that they are not set in stone! Rituals will change to fit you and your patrons, so don’t be afraid to modify the spells you might find in books and on the Internet.

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