

Lemon Bali Instructions

Materials Needed

- **Lemons:** Select small, juicy lemons that are soft enough to cut but not too soft.
- **Knife:** Keep a dedicated sharp knife, exclusively for using to offer lemon bali. Always wash and keep it clean, do not use it for anything else other than offering bali and store it separately. Preferably, use a clean red cloth and wrap it around the knife.
 - **Ayudha Puja (Recommended but not Mandatory):** If you are doing Bali for the first time and have got the new knife to be used for Bali, you may wash it properly first. Put some ghee, sindhur and ashtagandha. Recite the Devi mantra that you normally do (or 32 names of Ma Durga) for 10 times. This is the simplest method and need to be done only first time when you are using the knife for Bali

Preparation

Before every Bali process, prepare both the knife and lemons as mentioned below:

Preparation of Knife: Apply a spot of sindoor at three places on the knife and pray

Preparation of Lemons: Apply a spot of sindoor on the cleaned lemons and place in the puja space, mentioning that they are meant to be given as bali.

Bali Process

Video: https://youtu.be/qmP4BBzC_wU?feature=shared



When ready to perform Bali, follow the instructions below for each lemon:

- Take each lemon and apply a spot of sindoor on the lemon at five places.
- Chant the mantra of the deity for whom we are performing Bali 11 times.
- Hold the lemon vertically, with the part where the lemon was attached to the plant stem pointing upwards
- With one unbroken cut, cut the lemon vertically. Ideally this should be done in one cut. This is why you need a sharp knife.
- For each half of the lemon, scoop the pulp out and flip the lemon halves inside out.
- For each half of the lemon, fill the concave part with oil or ghee and put a wick inside.



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	○ If there is shortage of time, you may use camphor to light the diya on each half ● Once all the lemons are cut, place them on a brass or copper plate ● Light the diyas and do aarti of the deity while chanting any stuti, mentally mentioning that this is for devata preeti
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Visarjan

Once lemon diyas are all burnt out completely, you may leave them under any clean tree or put them in flowing water.

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