

APPLICATION, DRYING AND OVER PAINTING OF CRL LINSEED OIL BASED PUTTY

Linseed Oil Putty consists of English and Australian whiting that is milled with reacted and raw linseed oil to give a fine malleable putty. The oil content of putty is approximately 10%. The rest is whiting and oil plasticisers. The thorough milling given to each batch of putty produces the uniform fine texture.

Linseed oil putty dries by the absorption of air, oxidising the oil present in the putty, which causes setting and finally the hardening of the putty. If putty is not applied over a correctly prepared surface then several problems can be experienced, such as wrinkling and very slow-through drying.

CORRECT PUTTYING TECHNIQUE

Putty should be applied over a lightly sealed timber surface, i.e. a frame that has been given a single thin coat of an oil based primer or a single coat of an oil based undercoat. The glazing bed needs special care when painting the window frame to ensure only a thin oil based primer coat is applied evenly to this area and particular care needs to be taken when spray painting window frames to avoid over application of primer. Acrylic undercoats and sealers are not recommended. To aid the oxidation of the putty by the absorption of oil into the frame, the primers should be diluted with 20% turps for oil based wood primers.

If this technique for application of diluted primer is used then putty has the optimum drying ability as this will allow residual putty oil to be absorbed into the contact surfaces as this will in turn draw air into the putty, which allows it to dry by oxidation within the putty. This process takes two weeks to firm and approximately six weeks to harden. Painting can be undertaken after allowing drying for two weeks.

If no oil primer or undercoat is applied over an absorbent porous timber, such as Pacific Maple or Oregon, then the oil from the putty can be excessively transferred to the timber frame causing cracking. On non-absorbent timbers, such as Jarrah, priming is unnecessary. To achieve a good outcome for putty, correct priming techniques need to be followed prior to putty application.

Putty should always be emptied from the container onto a suitable flat surface and kneaded into a malleable state prior to use to ensure that the oils that are present are dispersed thoroughly through the mix.

If the application is taking place in summer months and the putty seems oily and sticky, a small amount of whiting may be added to the mix but ensure that it is mixed thoroughly prior to use. Likewise, in cooler temperatures if the putty seems stiff, a small amount of linseed oil may be added to soften the mix. This generally takes place during manufacture but the alert tradesman will sometimes feel the need to adjust the putty mix slightly to suit climatic conditions.

PAINTING TIME

The surface can be painted over after a minimum of two weeks (ideally three to four weeks) with an oil based undercoat or a water based undercoat. Once an undercoat has been applied then either an oil based top coat or acrylic coat can be applied. The surface needs to have a dry skin prior to painting, particularly when applying a water based undercoat.

NON PAINTED TIMBER FRAMES - STAINED OR NATURAL GRAIN

Where no paint is to be applied to the timber frame, such as Western Red Cedar or Jarrah timber frames, then linseed oil should be rubbed into the glazing reveal prior to puttying and the surplus oil being wiped off at the same time.

PROBLEMS CAUSED BY OVER-PRIMING AND PAINTING THE TIMBER GLAZING REVEAL

Some joinery manufacturers over-prime the timber frames. When frames are excessively sealed prior to glazing then the oil which should have been absorbed into the frame, assisting adhesion, will rise to the surface particularly in hot weather or where windows are positioned in strong direct sunlight. This will cause the oil to rise to the surface, skin off and wrinkle and will prevent the inner layer of putty from drying at the correct rate and the putty will tend to stay soft. This causes a rough surface, which is not decorative although it will eventually dry. This whole problem can be prevented by not excessively sealing timber frames with primers and undercoats.

To conclude, putty is a very effective and low cost way of glazing and with following a few simple procedures, a good outcome can be achieved every time.