

A few tips gleaned from 20 years of using traditional linseed oil based putty such as Sarco Multiglaze Type M and Sarco Dual Glaze

1. Linseed oil will naturally migrate to the top of an unopened bucket of putty if left unused for a period of time. Periodically (once a month or so) “flip” the unopened bucket 180 degrees and place back on the shelf. This will allow the same process to take place in reverse and will serve to reincorporate the oil with the putty.
2. If you open the putty and oil has risen to the top, pour off and reserve the oil for later use if you find the putty at the bottom of the bucket “stiffer” than you’d like.
3. If you find that the putty is “oilier” than you’d like, work out a softball sized portion of putty on a piece of corrugated cardboard to resemble a 14” pizza crust. Much like a pepperoni pizza in its box, within minutes any surplus oil will be leached out of the putty and you’re ready to glaze. Once you’ve achieved the consistency you desire, move the putty from the cardboard to prevent too much oil being removed.
4. If you are working with putty that is cold or are working in a cold environment, you can warm the putty by putting the bucket into a warm water bath, or by placing the putty under a heat lamp or even zap a pound or two in the microwave for about 20 seconds. Once the chill has been taken off, the putty will remain warm in your hand.
5. When a glazing session is over, smooth down and level the surface of the putty in the bucket with your hand, wipe off the interior sidewalls of the bucket with a paper towel and pour 2” of cool water on the surface of the putty. Place the lid on top and store on a shelf. The water will not mix appreciably with the oil and will preclude air from getting to it and hardening the putty. When ready to use again, simply pour off the water and blot any remaining beads of water from the surface of the putty with a paper towel. Alternatively, you can place unused putty into a 1 gallon Zip-lock freezer bag and suck out any air. Seal the bag and store in your freezer. Freezing will in no way harm the putty and will serve to keep it for very long periods of time.

The manufacturer is adamant that no primer is to be used on top of the putty once the sash are glazed. In other words, the top finish coats (a minimum of two coats) are to be applied directly onto the putty surface.