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# Lockdown Linseed oil

## Work in progress

**Before raw linseed oil can be used in painting processes it must be purified to remove sediment and mucilage. Mucilage is a naturally occurring gelatinous substance found in the outermost layer of the seed hull that contains protein and polysaccharides. It is generally accepted that mucilage causes darkening of the oil over time. In the refinement process the removal of this substance is the end goal. Refined linseed oils have been treated with chemical agents to do this, but the resulting oil is said to have reduced resistance to embrittlement. The best oils come from cold climes such as Sweden where the sun hitting the crop at a low angle is filtered through the atmosphere.**

**I wanted to see if I could make something viable with a locally sourced oil.**


**I purchased organic flax seed oil from a local health food store.**

**Approximately 200ml oil was added to the jar.  Roughly the same quantity of water was added. Note that the oil rises to the top which is useful later in the process.**

**The two are shaken vigorously and seem to emulsify but by the following day have separated with the oil once more at the top. Between the oil and water, a thin layer of the impurities has formed. A bulb baster was used to extract the oil leaving some oil and the sediment behind.**


**The process was repeated but the result was cloudy and remained so.**

**A few years ago, I successfully washed Kremer 73054 Cold pressed linseed oil (labelled ‘With some mucilage’) just with water. The sediment is clearly visible between the oil and water but the oil is very clear.**

**My conclusion is that the recently purchased oil is sold as a food stuff and is unfiltered. The mucilage is reported to have health benefits, hence the lack of filtering. The Kremer oil must have undergone some filtering.**

**In order to refine the oil sufficiently I will need to add sand and salt onto which the sediment can bind. Neither builders’ sand, or beach sand are clean enough for this purpose.**

***To be continued.....***