

## Does your new bag of clay feel firm? Try this!



If you open a new box of clay and the new bags feel slightly firm to the touch, try this simple technique to give new life to your clay:

- Remove the clay bag from the box.
- Drop the bag on a flat side of the cube onto the floor from about 18" (1 1/2 ft) from the ground.
- Repeat this on all 6 sides of the cube, being careful not to flatten a corner off. You will notice that the clay is already softer than it was fresh from the box!

Clay is a **thixotropic** material, and so when force is applied to it, the water and clay particles are allowed to slide by each other more easily, causing the consistency of the clay to become softer. Thixotropy is a rheological property, meaning the viscosity of a liquid decreases when it is agitated.

Want to learn more about this phenomenon?  
Search Thixotropy and Ceramic Properties.