



A starter guide to using oil mediums

Artist Guides | Oil Mediums



Liquin™ Original

Sansodor™

Safflower Oil



Oil mediums allow you to discover a world of texture, versatility, and longevity with your painting. As well as being transformative, they're also essential for control and flow.

This is a guide to using a few of the most popular oil mediums with your oil paints. Here you'll find out how to experiment, creating a new dimension to your work and giving you confidence to play and discover the magic that mediums can bring.

We recommend trying the mediums in this guide with the following Winsor & Newton oil ranges:

- **Artists' Oil Colour**
- **Winton Oil Colour**
- **Griffin Alkyd Fast Drying Oil Colour**



Liquin™ Original



If you only have space in your art studio for one medium, make sure it's iconic Liquin™ Original.



What does it do?

Creates a smooth, gel-like paint film that is easier to work with and allows oil paint to dry faster and aids working with multiple layers.

How to use it

Add a small amount of Liquin™ Original to make your oil colour slightly self-levelling.

Good to know

Depending on the film's thickness, colours will be touch dry within one to six days.

The thixotropic (gel to liquid) nature of Liquin™ Original means that shaking or stirring temporarily reduces viscosity.

Key properties

- Speeds up the drying process
- Is non-yellowing
- Improves flow
- Adds transparency and gloss

Sansodor™



Sansodor™ is the least hazardous solvent and can be used in place of Turpentine.



What does it do?

Performs like Turpentine, evaporates slowly and increases blending time of oil and alkyd colours.

How to use it

Mix just enough Sansodor™ with your oil paint to thin it. To clean tools, first, wipe the paint off, and then dip them into the liquid.

A separate vessel can be helpful to avoid polluting the solvent entirely and keeps the solvent in the original bottle clean for longer.

Good to know

Thanks to its low odour, Sansodor™ is ideal for use in shared studios and is often the only solvent permitted in art schools.

Key properties

- Low odour
- Our mildest solvent
- Less hazardous than Turpentine or White Spirit

Safflower Oil



Reach for Safflower Oil if you're looking to preserve the brightness of your colours and often work with a pale colour palette.



What does it do?

Safflower Oil preserves the brightness of pigments and stabilises the paint film.

How to use it

Be frugal - mix just enough medium with paint to achieve the viscosity you want.

Good to know

You can create your own painting medium by mixing Safflower Oil with a solvent. Start with a 50/50 ratio.

Key properties

- Slows down the drying process
- Adds transparency and gloss
- Ideal for use with whites, blues and greens
- Has a low tendency to yellow
- Pale in colour

Artists' Painting Medium



Want to slow down the drying time of your painting and buy more time to concentrate on the fine details? Then this all-rounder is the medium for you.



What does it do?

Reduces brush strokes and improves flow, increasing the durability of the film.

Good to know

Also suitable for oiling out and enriching dull patches.

How to use it

Add solvent to make the medium leaner or add oil to get a fatter mixture for your paint.

Key properties

- Slows down the drying process
- Reduces viscosity for better flow
- Non-yellowing





More helpful tips

Most oil mediums can be divided into two categories:

alkyds which are synthetic and fast drying and **oils** which are created from natural ingredients and are slower drying. In all instances, wipe the neck of your medium bottle after use to ensure the safety cap remains secure.

Discover the full range:

Availability may vary per region.



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