[Method of Dissolving Gum-Elastic] Dr. William James Almon

Date: Published in 1791.

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Publication Format
Manuscript

Type
Household
Miscellaneous

Ingredients
gum-elastic
sand
spirits of turpentine
turpentine
linseed oil
litharge
leather

Places
Halifax
Nova Scotia
France

Source: Manuscript Notebook of Dr. William James Almon
Institution: Nova Scotia Archives | **Source Origin:** Almon Family Fonds | **Reference:** MG 1 / Microfilm Reel 10,045

Description

A method proposed by French geologist and travel writer Barthélemy Faujas de Saint-Fond for concocting a rubber-based mixture that might prove useful in waterproofing footwear, p. 256.

Transcription

Method of dissolving gum-elastic, commonly
called Indian rubber. Translated from

Mr. Faujas de Saint Fond.

Take a pound of spirits of turpentine, as much
gum elastic, cut with very small scissors, into
very little pieces. Pour the spirit of turpentine in
a long, narrow necked receiver, which place upon
sand heated by a moderate fire; throw the gum in,
not the whole at once, but a pinch at a time. When it is
dissolved, pour in a pound of lintseed oil, mixed with
a proper quantity of litharge, to assist its drying. Let
the whole boil a short time, and the mixture is prepa-
red.

Leather impregnated with this dissolution, is impene-
trable to water, and retains its former flexibility
Could not the mixture be used with advantage, in pre-
paring the leather for water ducts? Might not wet-wea-
ther shoes be rendered drier by the use of this mixture?

Annotations

Mr. Faujas De Saint Fond

The recipe appears to have been transcribed directly from the translation published in The American Museum or Universal Magazine: Containing Essays on Agriculture, Commerce, Manufactures, Politics, Morals and Manners, Vol. 9, 1791.

Method of Dissolving Gum-Elastic recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes:
https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/188