

How to use Liver of Sulfur

Liver of sulfur is Potassium Sulfide. Buy it in lump form from a jeweler's supply company. You can buy it pre-mixed, but since it has a shelf life, it's much better to buy it in lump form and mix it as needed.

Break off a pea sized lump and add it to a cup of warm water and dissolve the liver of sulfur.

To work, either the liver of sulfur or the metal must be hot. Liver of sulfur smells pretty badly, so heating the metal reduces the odor.

I use the bottom part of an old air popcorn popper to heat the metal. Have your liver of sulfur ready, along with a paintbrush. Now you can paint the liquid onto the metal where you would like it to be darkened. If you would like the whole thing darkened, dunk the item. If it's a bead, string it on a wire or string. Your piece should be polished before you apply the liver of sulfur, which is your last step. Rinse off the piece under running water. If you accidentally got any liver of sulfur in areas where you don't want it, remove it with a 3M polishing pad (Microfine) or with a fine polishing wheel on your flexible shaft.