Re-moisturizing and Kneading Metal Clay
by Gordon K. Uyehara

Unlike other clays, metal clay dries quickly. Fortunately, you can easily add water back into the
clay. Here’s how to do it effectively. Note that it is easier to knead a smaller lump than the whole
package at once.

Work under a plastic food (e.g. Saran) wrap. Some folks like to use a sliced open sandwich bag.
Change the wrap once it develops holes or if it becomes too dirty.

Materials and Tools

- Metal clay lump
- Roller (acrylic or pvc pipe)
- Rigid work surface
- Plastic food wrap
- Page protector (optional)
- Water (distilled if your water is too hard)

1. With the clay sandwiched between the folded plastic wrap, flatten it with your thumbs.
2. Add one drop of water to the middle of the flattened lump - use your finger or paintbrush.
3. Fold the clay over the drop of water.
4. Again, compress your lump by pressing down on it with your thumbs and repeatedly folding it over. Add another drop of water to your flattened lump and repeat the process until your lump is soft. Knead each drop of water in well before determining if you need more water.
5. If your clay has hard lumps, roll it to compress it more (easier to smash the lumps).
6. Firmly compress the lump into a ball to finish.

The object of this process is to work the water into the clay rather than just spreading it around
the surface (making it messy on the outside, while the middle is still dry). If your clay remains
crumbly, knead in some newer clay. Remember air and dry hands drawn moisture from the clay.
So work within the plastic wrap as much as possible and only take out your clay when you are
ready to start your project.