

PEG 400

Polyethylene glycol 400 or PEG 400 is a polymer used for the preservation of Wood and Leather.

Wood

Wood is usually the most vulnerable material group in excavations. Even wood that looks solid and solid deteriorates immediately when exposed to air, sun and wind. Oxygen, heat and water can cause irreparable damage within hours. Make sure that the find is immediately wrapped in a plastic bag or plastic film. At home, for example, put it in the refrigerator until it can be preserved.

Preservation of wood is carried out by impregnating it with polyethylene glycol (PEG), a type of wax that replaces the water in the wood. Preservation takes place by immersing the wood in the PEG400.

Depending on the size and thickness of the wood, immerse it in the PEG400 for several weeks to six months in a ratio of 50% PEG and 50% water (demineralised). Then remove from the substance and pat dry.

PEG400 strengthens the corrosion. It is therefore not recommended to use this on objects with iron such as knives, daggers, bayonets.

Leather

Like wood, leather is a vulnerable material group. As soon as it is excavated, its condition can deteriorate rapidly. Like wood, put it in a plastic bag or foil as soon as possible. Do not remove the sand and mud. This protects the leather from drying out. Once the leather has dried out, it will never be flexible again.

Preservation of leather is carried out by impregnating it with polyethylene glycol (PEG), a type of wax that takes the place of the water in the leather. Preservation takes place by immersing the leather in the PEG400.

Depending on the size and thickness of the leather, immerse it in the PEG400 for several weeks to six months (in a closed container) in a ratio of 50% PEG and 50% water (demineralised). Then remove from the substance and pat dry.

PEG400 strengthens the corrosion. It is therefore not advisable to use this on objects with iron. Example: For helmets, try to remove the straps first.

In case of doubt or a unique find, it is advisable to have the find professionally cleaned and preserved by a specialist.