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About two years ago, I redid the strainers on my kitchen sinks. Removed the old strainers, completely cleaned everything out, put down a liberal amount of fresh plumber's putty, connected everything together, seemed to work great. Over time, a little bit of putty would ooze out the top. I would wipe it off and make sure the nut from the bottom of the sink was still tightened all the way. About six months ago, I was under the sink for something else and noticed that there was a small leak coming from that location. Loosened the nut under the sink, shoved a bunch of new plumber's putty under the strainer, tightened it back down, seemed to be okay. Well lo and behold, I was under there this week and it's leaking again.The sink has definitely deformed a bit so it's not perfectly flat or flush perhaps, but I thought the whole point of the putty was to accommodate that. Do I just do this with silicone (which won't run or expand/contract as much under hot water) and call it a day? Don't really feel like resealing this every 6 months. No issues in our bathrooms where I used the same technique, but we don't pour boiling water down there either. Yes silicone. But there's also something that can happen (mostly with stainless steel sinks) where the sink itself is thinner than the strainer can thread. Meaning you've run out of threads and can no longer tighten the nut on bottom, but it's not as tight as it should be to the sink. If that's the case for you there are different types of systems for kitchen sinks you might want to try. Perfect drain is one the comes to mind it's pretty good. There are others. This is a sponsored advertisement. We will never use strainers that use a single nut to cinch up from below. Only use stainless steel basket strainers that use three or four tightening screws. There are a LOT of variables here. Mating surfaces and angles and type of things being attached make a difference. If I do use putty I use the very least I think I can.. cuz of squish factor. Stainless sinks mate up nearly perfectly to the angle of the strainer, so a very thin layer of putty is needed. Cast iron sinks have a huge gap that needs filling, this is where I like putty vs silicone. I mostly use clear silicone however and similar technique.. the least amount as possible so cleanup is just a simple wipe. I only silicone disposals anymore no matter the material. While I prefer the strainers that Breplum mentions, a lot of what we install isn't.. Most of the work we do is designer driven fixtures so the strainers are matching the finishes and are brand specific. Silicone makes up for a lot of shortcomings of poor engineering. They do have single nut types that tighten against a "bell" that pushes against the sink (excuse my lack of explaination) but the huge nut and spanners or channel locks everything spinning and busted knuckles pinched fingers are all part of the fun! Stainless sinks do take a bit of experiance to get long lasting seal with putty silicone probebly is better but I like it to dry befor using and testing and not real comfortable with silicone I use it occasional but havent really went all in! They do have single nut types that tighten against a "bell" that pushes against the sink (excuse my lack of explaination) but the huge nut and spanners or channel locks everything spinning and busted knuckles pinched fingers are all part of the fun! Stainless sinks do take a bit of experiance to get long lasting seal with putty silicone probebly is better but I like it to dry befor using and testing and not real comfortable with silicone I use it occasional but havent really went all in! The kind with the 1.5" nut and second cup was my go to when I was doing commercial work and got to spec all my own product. Jomar Snap-n-loc was my go to.. all machined parts, no pressed threads.. of course quality went down when they shipped manufacturing to china. I think their advantage is the friction is reduced threading an 1.5" vs 3.5" nut. Thanks Bro, where can I find this type of Drain? I have been using Plumber's Putty with our kitchen sink but it seems I need to change the Putty every 18 months or we get leaks(Wife unhappy)…..it seems that every once in a while I need to tighten the flange a bit, and some Plumbers Putty squishes out….a bit frustrating….I see Sioux Company has a rubber to seal replace the Plumber's Putty….what do you think of that? Thanks, Dave Use less putty. Kohler Duostrainer, easy on, easy mount, etc are a few types of strainers that were mentioned. About two years ago, I redid the strainers on my kitchen sinks. Removed the old strainers, completely cleaned everything out, put down a liberal amount of fresh plumber's putty, connected everything together, seemed to work great. Over time, a little bit of putty would ooze out the top. I would wipe it off and make sure the nut from the bottom of the sink was still tightened all the way. About six months ago, I was under the sink for something else and noticed that there was a small leak coming from that location. Loosened the nut under the sink, shoved a bunch of new plumber's putty under the strainer, tightened it back down, seemed to be okay. Well lo and behold, I was under there this week and it's leaking again.The sink has definitely deformed a bit so it's not perfectly flat or flush perhaps, but I thought the whole point of the putty was to accommodate that. Do I just do this with silicone (which won't run or expand/contract as much under hot water) and call it a day? Don't really feel like resealing this every 6 months. No issues in our bathrooms where I used the same technique, but we don't pour boiling water down there either. Personally, I prefer using 100% clear silicone. Yeah, it takes overnight to cure up. But it won't leak. And for the whiners who complain that it's hard to remove if you ever have to service. Um, nope. If you have a utility knife it peels right off. Sometimes when the old basket strainer is removed, you can get a little imperfection in the metal. Silicone will fill in any imperfections and leave you water-tight. Plumbers putty…not so much I installed 4 shut-off valves under two sinks yesterday using compression fitting valves. Both sides (they are two by two under each sink) seem to have leaked one or two drops of water over night. I followed the instructions carefully, cut the 1/2" copper pipe using a pipe cutter, sanded the pipes to a smooth surface, gently tightend the ring and nut WITHOUT USING PLUMBERS PUTTY. Now, I've read that some online diy'ers recommend using putty with the compression fittings, while other DON'T. I know I am not supposed to overtighten the nuts, which I didn't but after the first test, they leaked a bit, and I tightened quite hard and it helped, but as I said, still a drop or two of water. Should I remove the nut and try again…? With or without putty? Thanks for your input!!! Depending on the brand, the threads may not be the greatest. A small drop of oil on the threads before assembling makes it much smoother when tightening it down. It can catch if the threads aren't clean and appear to be tighter than it really is. You may only need another 10-degrees, but if the threads aren't well done, sometimes it is hard. You shouldn't need anything on the threads to seal things….the threads don't seal it, the compression ring does. The nut compresses the ring around the pipe and into the body of the shutoff to make the seal. Give it a little more. Note, you need two wrenches…one to hold the body of the valve, and a second one to turn the nut. If you try it with only one, it's hard to get it sealed. This is a sponsored advertisement. Jim is right. At most, a drop of oil on the threads, and tighten some more. I've never heard of putting putty on a pressure joint before. That tip must be from an unhandy page. valveI always take the valve from the package and install it right onto the tubing. No "putty", joint compound, Teflon tape, or oil. Thanks all! I wish I knew about the "oil trick"…. I loosened the nuts a little bit, and tightended a bit more, and so far it seemed to work. Yeah, not sure if plumbing is a science or art….science there is a definite solution, while art implies various interpretation. Either way…I appreciate your professional advice and opinions. So far it's fun, rewarding and educational! Here is another option for the future. Just buy a sweat on valve and solder it to the pipe I've never had a leak yet when I solder I can't say the same for compression fittings. My rule is that I never use a compression fitting for any pipe over 3/8". Last edited: Mar 20, 2008 Any general rules for using which, when, why? Or the opposite, why /not/ to use which, when? Thanks... ?They are used for different purposes so you cannot lump them together. Dope and tape are to join pipes to fittings. Putty is to seal a "clamped" joint. This is a sponsored advertisement. Pipe dope is a gooey paste that is used on threaded pipe joints. Teflon tape is used for the same purpose, and some plumbers use both at the same time. Plumbers putty is use when installing sink drains. It is a soft putty that will compress to seal between the flange and the sink. Some new materials require silicon, but that's another question. My personal, repeat personal, preference is pipe dope on water and gas joints, Teflon tape on air fittings. There are two grades of Teflon tape, the familiar white tape for water and the less familiar yellow for gas. The yellow is thicker than white. There are two grades of Teflon tape, the familiar white tape for water and the less familiar yellow for gas. The yellow is thicker than white. Well, there is also pink teflon tape, and of course green. Remodel work, I do paste over tape.Then I bump the thing and get a leak on the old galvanized down the line anyhow! Last edited by a moderator: Feb 18, 2019 I use tape. Sometimes tape and dope. Tape is great for PVC threads. I use dope on threads that require some lubricant to make them thread together easier as well as seal them. Megaloc brand works on PVC pipe as well as galv. and copper. As stated earlier, I sometimes use tape and dope on the same fitting when it absolutely cannot leak, like the last joint of the day and my daughter has a dance recital. Tape can also be used as packing. I wrap it around stems under the packing nut in stead of string packing or grafite. Generally I use tape for water pipe threads and dope on gas. I only use Gasoila dope.It works on plastic for the rare need. Lately I have been using tape and dope on water heater nipples. The threads have been bad lately on the junk coming from overseas and I do not want to take apart finished work to fix a leak. I remember a time when I was using wicking and the old nasty grey ProDope. Now I'm using tape and Megaloc on all threaded metal fittings, dope only on pvc. I remember a time when I was using wicking and the old nasty grey ProDope. Now I'm using tape and Megaloc on all threaded metal fittings, dope only on pvc. Do you choose one over the other for certain types of joints? Megaloc seems like a good choice for all joints. If it truly performs as Megaloc says it does, why use tape at all? Why use tape? Because I hate taking apart my work because of a leak. I haven't tried Megaloc without tape on brass or copper threads. I'm kinda old-school, believing the teflon tape is there to allow you to thread things together easier and the dope is the thread sealer. Does tape seal joints? Yup, I'll admit I've seen stuff taped-only and sealed. Does dope with teflon in it perform as well as tape and dope? Probably, but I'm not taking any chances. Tape and Megaloc are a combo that work for me, that I'm comfortable with, and that I don't have to go back on call-backs for. I dislike working on pipe that megalock was used on. Hard to take apart, if a soft set dope is used right it won't leak but will be easier to take apart...like when installing gas heaters. This has been interesting for me. I'm an amateur/DIY'er and I'm going to re-plumb my lav and its drain next week. I'll probably use tape for the faucets, as I always have in the past. I've got a new tailpiece, p-trap, trap-arm, all in chrome pipe, for the new vanity. In this particular case, would those joints be better done with tape, dope, megaloc, or some combo? I thought I recalled reading somewhere in this forum that sometimes a bit of putty on those joints (slip joints) was also helpful. Do you guys have any comment on that method? Thanks... ONLY tapered pipe threads require a thread sealant. Slip nuts, compression fittings, flare fittings, ground-joint unions and any fitting that has a gasketed surface does not need any thread sealant and the use of a sealant is often the cause of leaks. ONLY tapered pipe threads require a thread sealant. Slip nuts, compression fittings, flare fittings, ground-joint unions and any fitting that has a gasketed surface does not need any thread sealant and the use of a sealant is often the cause of leaks. Then, for assembling lav drain to tailpiece, then tailpiece to trap, then trap to trap-arm, then trap-arm to wall drain outlet, all of which are slip joints with a gasket/washer, use only teflon tape, or use nothing? And no leaks if done properly? I don't recall ever seeing a threaded tailpiece that had any kind of sealant on the threads. As for the rest, which is all assembled with slip joints, no Teflon or anything else. Be sure the tapered end of the gasket/washer is pointed into the receiving pipe and the flat side is against the inside of the nut. Just slightly more than hand tight should not leak. The one possible problem that might arise is if you need to cut any of the pipe/tube for length. If you use a hacksaw be sure that it does not "jump" and leave scratches in the pipe/tube. Deep scratches under a slip nut washer WILL cause leaks. Interesting. I was always taught to dope all unions. So all traps, tailpiece washers, and all that...all doped. I've had sink traps assembled by others that were tight, but no dope, and leaking. I've disassembled and doped and retested and all OK. And my preference for Megaloc is it's approved for plastic pipe (while some other dopes aren't) and easily washes off clothing. Hey, ask 10 plumbers and you'll get 10 different answers. Every person has to try different methods and see what works for them. As individuals, there is no hard, fast rule for all to adhere to. What works for me may not work for you. Interesting. I was always taught to dope all unions. So all traps, tailpiece washers, and all that...all doped. I've had sink traps assembled by others that were tight, but no dope, and leaking. I've disassembled and doped and retested and all OK. And my preference for Megaloc is it's approved for plastic pipe (while some other dopes aren't) and easily washes off clothing. Hey, ask 10 plumbers and you'll get 10 different answers. Every person has to try different methods and see what works for them. As individuals, there is no hard, fast rule for all to adhere to. What works for me may not work for you. Well now I'm /totally/ confused Drain tubing should never need anything except the slip nut if it is installed right and the tubing is round and smooth. Drain tubing should never need anything except the slip nut if it is installed right and the tubing is round and smooth. I appreciate your patience. Can you help this amateur and define "installed right"? Plumb and level and straight I know. Round and smooth I understand More than hand tight, or snugged up, or… ? Page 2 Installed with a slight downward pitch toward the trap, no sharp angles, and as tight by hand as is possible. Sometimes snugged with channel locks if necessary. I have on rare occasions used a little Teflon tape on the female threads to allow the nut threads to tighten better but never on the slip nut. Last edited: Jun 26, 2008 Installed with a slight downward pitch toward the trap, no sharp angles, and as tight by hand as is possible. Sometimes snugged with channel locks if necessary. I have on rare occasions used a little Teflon tape on the female threads to allow the nut threads to tighten better but never on the slip nut. Good stuff, thanks a lot! This is a sponsored advertisement. I'm re-doing my bathroom and did a Google search and stumbled across this site… hopefull you all can help me! I'm re-doing my shower and have a question on my seals. I re-plumbed into the new shower valve and there is a copper fitting on the brass valve. I used teflon tape and got the fittings as tight as I could without wanting to strip them. After I got it all together, none of my soldered joints leaked, but the two brass-copper fittings did. When I re-do it, what are your suggestions for the sealant? Thanks!! After I got it all together, none of my soldered joints leaked I solder the male adapters onto pipe first, let them cool, and then I apply thread sealant and thread them in. I normally just use pipe dope on those threads. I then make sure the next soldered joint is a couple inches away, and that the threaded joints don't get too hot. Teflon Tape doesn't take heat well. Pipe dope is a little better. Thanks for the response. I actually thought ahead and made sure to solder all of my joints within ~6" of the brass/copper connection first. I let them cool overnight and then used the teflon tape to put the brass/copper connections on, then soldered the pieces furthest from the tape (with a cool rag over the teflon fittings to ensure they didn't get warm/hot). I use teflon on brass fittings at work all the time, but I had never used copper, so I think I was just too worried about over tightening the copper… we'll try again tomorrow with the dope. I'm re-doing my shower and have a question on my seals. The only fitting in the drain arena that needs something is the fine threaded tailpiece which screw into the bottom of the pop-up body on many lav drains. These threads need a little tape or dope. Last edited by a moderator: Jun 25, 2008 The only fitting in the drain arena that needs something is the fine threaded tailpiece which screw into the bottom of the pop-up body on many lav drains. These threads need a little tape or dope. jimbo, thanks for the response. Our bathroom has a separate tub and shower, and I'm only tackling the shower so I don't have to worry about the pop-up valve. The only drain I have to worry about is the PVC drain in the center of the shower. Brass tub waste and overflows have a threaded tailpiece as well that would require thread sealant. The ones I use allow me to back it up with a slip joint washer and nut which go on dry without tape. Hopefully someone will be around tonight and can help me again… since I didn't think of this beforehand. I've got it all put back together now with the pipe dope. Do I have to let the dope harden/dry for a specific length of time before I turn the water back on? I usually allow all soldered joints a half hour to ensure they've cooled enough, but I wasn't sure if I have to wait any longer with the dope? Thanks again! You don't have to wait for pipe dope. It's mainly to lubricate the threads so that they thread in easier. You could even rub a bar of soap on the threads if you had nothing else. Let me say that pipe dope saved me today. I'm no plumber but I own a RV that sprung a sewer leak under the shower. It was a 1 1/2" ABS P trap with union that was cracked . I found what I thought was the identical ABS P trap online. Turns out everything was identical except the female threaded union was a fraction of a mm off not allowing me to fasten the union to the existing elbow (FRUSTRATING!). I took a chance and went to Lowe's and I could not believe that they had a identical match of my ABS P trap. I was happy that it did fit but that soon ended when I tested the drain only to find that the P trap was leaking at the union. I took it off and re-installed the P trap several times using different tightening strategies only to have the union still leak. Sometimes more, sometimes less. UUUUGGHHH! After reading a bit here I decided to apply pipe dope to the flare part of the union and a bit on the threads and my headaches finally went away. Thanks to plumbers forums like this. Last edited by a moderator: May 18, 2015 quote; use tape for the faucets, as I always have in the past. I've got a new tailpiece, p-trap, trap-arm, all in chrome pipe, for the new vanity.As listed, NONE of those need, or should have, ANYTHING on them. Tape for PVC threads, dope for metal threads. Teflon tape, also known as PTFE (polytetrafluoroethylene) tape, is a thin film that works as a sealant on threaded pipe joints. While Pipe dope is a chemical sealant with a texture similar to a thick paste. Pipe Dope is also known as pipe joint compound and is a plumbing sealant designed to prevent leaks from plumbing fixtures, pipes, and fittings. Using the wrong sealant could cause leaks and water damage, so you have to know which product is best for your project. Pipe dope is an adhesive that seals the thread in your pipes. Its a thick liquid that comes in a variety of colors and can be applied in hot or cold temperatures making it an ideal sealant for water pipes. It can provide a stronger sealant than Teflon tape, but is messier to apply. Pipe dope is used for pressurized pipes.Plumbers Putty is an oil-based plumbing sealant used to seal areas not under pressure. It feels like silly putty. Plumbers often use it under kitchen sinks, and on sink and tub drains. While pipe dope is used on pipe threads under pressure, plumber's putty is generally used to fill gaps in sinks and drains. It can be used to temporarily stop an emergency leak, such as a cracked slip joint nut. But again, it only works in places without pressurized water, and it is not used as a permanent replacement for pipe dope or sealant tape.Teflon Tape, like pipe dope, also seals threaded pipe joints for liquids and gasses under pressure. Also known as plumbers tape, Teflon tape is harder to apply, but less messy. Its a stretchy film that comes in spools. It can come in a variety of colors denoting oxygen-carrying lines (green), gas lines (yellow), or water lines (pink and white). I use megaloc on everything and it never leaks and wipes off clean with a rag so you can't see anything, except air or sensitive stuff where I can't have dope I use blue monster teflon - the monster works great, no air leaks for me...the white roll thin stuff when i see it gets trashed. I am a monster addict and use tons of it When in doubt atleast use Teflon enriched dope. I tell my guys Teflon and Dope or atleast dope everything except Flare fitting on gas appliance connectors and Csst.We dope every thread under a sink. NO Leaks. You know, I have a lav that was done with dope. I'm pretty sure the water tastes funny, but I can't prove obviously that it was the potable safe dope. Am I crazy? Pursuant to some of the comments above re the use of teflon tape on pvc and cpvc joints, I'm in the process of replacing some " CPVC piping, in an unused 2nd bathroom in a "far-corner" of the house - this winter, someone (me?) accidentally turned off the electric heat - usually set to 3 or 4 degrees C in the winter in that area.When the water pump came on last week, and didn't turn off after the usual 45 seconds, I smelled a problem and quickly manually turned it off. Luckily I was home during this late winter thaw.Don't ask about the basement floor. Anyhow it was soon sucked up with a big shop-vac. And the drywall ceiling UNDER that bathroom? Well, I'll replace it with some wood ceiling someday.So- As a newbie here- Never mind the cracked " cpvc in the back of the shower and tub stall. or the cracked toilet bowl. This will fixed at my leisure…BUT- First thing: I'm adding a coupla ball valves for hot&cold upstream from that bathroom. Why? because the main shower stall is ALSO downstream from the last valve on the circuit.** So I hafta get this done before I wanna take a shower or bath!I'm tired of washing up in the bathroom or kitchen sink!The line is " cpvc, so I'm adding a PVC valve to the cold, and since I couldn't see any cpvc valves sold locally, for the hot I bought a brass ball valve.To the point :Doing my homework, I found there's a lot of professional plumbing sites that advise you to never use teflon tape on cpvc or pvc threads. They will leak due to the shape of the thread groove. And they tend to let you overtighten the thread, causing the female part to crack.So I'm using (specifically) Oatey white dope on both the cold - cpvc (male) to a pvc valve, and also on the cpvc thread going into the brass valve. Think it's good enough? AND any arguments about these guys that advise to NEVER to use teflon tape on pvc threads? - and NEVER overtighten! thanx- but I never wish to solder copper again- especially with that silver stuff!** I DID NOT INSTALL THIS MADNESS! Last edited: Feb 26, 2021 Page 3 I've never had a problem using tape on CPVC threads. You don't want to thread into a plastic (CPVC or PVC) fitting though. I prefer the plastic male adapter to thread to a female fitting. They do make a stainless reinforced CPVC fitting though which works well. Thanx. I'm new at the game- at least with PVC.(heh- ask me about computers sometime. Fifty+ years as a techie -everything from S360/370 to Raspberries)Your 2nd pic above is confusing. -a " CPVC male adapter? Looks like a male brass thread into a female CPVC.Anyhow, I'm gonna fit my male adapters onto the brass ball valve with some Oatey white dope,and then glue the slip-on ends to the original CPVC pipe. And hope it doesn't leak.If it does? Well, simply saw off another inch of the old CPVC, and try again. Maybe with Teflon tape. I think I can do this at least 10-15 times before I run out of pipe. -)If worse comes to worst, I'll glue a CPVC end-stopper onto what's left of the original CPVC and call a professional plumber! This is a sponsored advertisement. Any general rules for using which, when, why? Or the opposite, why /not/ to use which, when? Thanks... NEVER use tape on gas appliances or gas piping!!!Always use about 4 spins of teflon tape on your threaded fittingsSome people use teflon tape with a little brush of pipe dope (kinda overkill)I rarely use plumbers putty. I usually use clear silicone instead. Fewer leaks. and yes, I know you guys use plumbers putty. But silicone works better-mike Last edited by a moderator: Nov 19, 2022 Drain tubing never need anything except the slip nut which installed in the right way then the tubing is round and smooth which can spend 2 year easily without any damage if You face problems then use plumbing services As an aside, Teflon is a trademark owned by Dupont. Dupont does not make PTFE tape, so it's technically not teflon tape...When you have a pipe that needs something like tape or pipe dope to make a seal, either or both will work as long as you're using the right stuff for the pipe and material used in the pipe. Here is a big Don't do. Don't use pipe dope or Teflon tape or should I say PTFE tape on compression fittings. Like the fittings on 1/2 angle stops that use a compression fitting onto bare copper pipe. You should put a drop or 2 of light weight oil on the threads and ferrule. This will reduce friction and give you a better seal buy allowing the torque to go into the compression and not the threads.Also, no tape or dope on those braided supply lines. And don't over tighten them either. Here is a big Don't do. Don't use pipe dope or Teflon tape or should I say PTFE tape on compression fittings. Like the fittings on 1/2 angle stops that use a compression fitting onto bare copper pipe. You should put a drop or 2 of light weight oil on the threads and ferrule. This will reduce friction and give you a better seal buy allowing the torque to go into the compression and not the threads.Also, no tape or dope on those braided supply lines. And don't over tighten them either. Pipe dope on the threads and even the ferrule is fine, and I think desirable. And it takes more wrench torque than most amateurs think. Fear of crushing the pipe with your pair of 6 inch wrenches is misplaced in my non-pro opinion. I strongly agree-- no tape. I'm no professional, but I get into a decent amount of plumbing with all the remodel work I do. Since I started using grey mega tape topped with pipe dope I very rarely have a leak. Pipe dope alone doesn't give me enough 'cushion' to get that elbow or shower arm pointed the right direction. I'd rather overkill than disassemble. I know pipe dope is not recommended for plastic as it can negatively interact with it. I actually read that today when working with a plastic shower drain - it said silicone only. I know pipe dope is not recommended for plastic as it can negatively interact with it. I actually read that today when working with a plastic shower drain - it said silicone only. A lot of pipe dopes are specifically recommended for plastics. Check the label. Pipe dope on the threads and even the ferrule is fine, and I think desirable. For a compression joint, the design is for the ferrule to seal to the pipe and to the beveled edge of the fitting. As such, the threads are not part of the seal, and pipe dope on the threads just seems like a bad idea. The drop of oil on the threads is to reduce friction, allowing you to more easily compress the ferrule on the pipe. You could try using pipe dope as a lubricant, but the oil is better. As to pipe dope on the ferrule, it shouldn't be necessary. The ferrule should be able to seal to the pipe and the fitting on its own. If the ferrule or fitting bevel is a little damaged, pipe dope on it could be a temporary solution to allow you to get it to seal, but really you should replace parts as required to get a proper seal without dope. At least, that's my understanding of the theory, and so I would say pipe dope is not desirable. Flared joints and ground joints are similar, although I've not heard of using oil on those threads.Cheers, Wayne Pipe dope, T-Tape, and the drop of oil are all performing the same task.. reducing friction. not creating a seal. Pipe dope, T-Tape, and the drop of oil are all performing the same task.. reducing friction. not creating a seal. But since pipe dope and t-tape are also capable of creating a seal, they are not as effective as the drop of oil. And if by creating that seal on the threads (filling the thread space somewhat), they prevent the threads from being tightened as fully as they could be with oil or nothing, thereby reducing the clamping pressure on the ferrule, they could actually cause a leak. That last part, I think, is the real reason, it took me a while to get there.Cheers, Wayne For a compression joint, the design is for the ferrule to seal to the pipe and to the beveled edge of the fitting. As such, the threads are not part of the seal, and pipe dope on the threads just seems like a bad idea. The drop of oil on the threads is to reduce friction, allowing you to more easily compress the ferrule on the pipe. You could try using pipe dope as a lubricant, but the oil is better. As to pipe dope on the ferrule, it shouldn't be necessary. The ferrule should be able to seal to the pipe and the fitting on its own. If the ferrule or fitting bevel is a little damaged, pipe dope on it could be a temporary solution to allow you to get it to seal, but really you should replace parts as required to get a proper seal without dope. At least, that's my understanding of the theory, and so I would say pipe dope is not desirable. Flared joints and ground joints are similar, although I've not heard of using oil on those threads.Cheers, WayneI am not a plumber. Any worries about using oil with plastic pipe? I would be afraid it would eat pex if it was to get in the wrong place. Here is how I picture it. The olive (ferrule) is changed in shape during tightening. That is done by slopes compressing the olive, and some sliding happens. If there is sliding, some lube may be beneficial. Just my mental model. But some people recommend some dope on the olive. When I redid a leaking compression fitting, I applied some Rectorseal #5. Now is that the reason the re-did joint did not leak? or was it because I applied more torque to the nut, not worrying about crushing the copper. We will never know. Now would some grease have been as good or better? Won't know that either. If the pipe dope did it's sealing thing, that would seem to be good too. Any worries about using oil with plastic pipe? I would be afraid it would eat PEX if it was to get in the wrong place. I don't know of anybody lubing PEX. But if I had threaded plastic pipe, I would use pipe compound (that was safe for plastic) and ptfe tape both. That I have done. Avoid female plastic threads but there are good exceptions for that. For example, schedule 120 PVC couplings are quite good if you get the torque right. I use a single wrap of T-Tape on the threads of the angle stop. I don't think its taking up space enough to stop a nut from tightening all the way and I know from experience that it works. Tape is something that's already in my tool bag which a bottle of oil certainly wouldn't be. A bottle of oil might be a good homeowner trick, but T-tape and pipe dope are what someone in the field will use. All of which will work fine. Any worries about using oil with plastic pipe? I would be afraid it would eat pex if it was to get in the wrong place. Yes, I would worry about that if you were using a compression valve on PEX or CPVC. A single wrap of t-tape is inert. From Brasscraft's instructions on compression stops COPPER COMPRESSION INLETBe sure to shut off water before starting.For use with type L or M copper only.1. Place compression nut and sleeve onto the copper tube.2. A drop of general purpose oil will make tightening easier.3. If using a drop of oil or thread sealant be sure the threads are clean of any debris and that sealant is also free of any metal debris. DO NOT USE a putty, gasket material or thread seal tape.4. If using a thread sealant, apply a thin even coat to the male compression threads only taking care not to get thread sealant on the compression ring or sealing surface. IMPORTANT: Excessive thread sealant may cause joint to fail.. . . The last three items above are identical in the instructions for PEX.Cheers, Wayne Page 4 I sent an email to brasscraft for an explanation as to why they don't like tape but will accept dope or oil. Their response:Per our engineering team, Tape can interfere with getting a seal if that gets between the sealing surfaces. We recommend the use of oil or thread sealant. Not tape.So long as you keep the tape out of the sealing surface then it acts just like dope or oil on the threads. Agreed, but to me it seems simpler and safer to use a lubricant/non-sealant, rather than a lubricant/sealant. As the sealant aspect on the threads is strictly a negative, and you have to be careful to keep it off the ferrule. It would be interesting when installing multiple valves to do some with dry threads, and some with just a drop of oil, and compare the torque required in each case for Brasscraft's spec of "3/4 turn pass hand tight," as well as observing whether that "hand tight" is the same engagement with and without oil. If the torque required dry isn't excessive, that's certainly the simplest option, to use nothing on the threads.Cheers, Wayne This is a sponsored advertisement. Do you think that is what they are calling the ferrule? Certainly. The ferrule is a ring that gets compressed between the pipe and the nut, so it is a compression ring.Cheers, Wayne Don't use tape on a compression joint or on a flare joint like gas connection etc. On compression I ALWAYS put a small amount of pipe dope on the the angles stop threads not even all the way around it necessarily but just to lube the threads a very small amount when it is chrome plated the threads sort of gall ,squeak , and sometimes leak if they are brass not so much problem. oil might work but I don't like oil because it unless you have the right kind it might not lube properly if anyone has ever tried threading pipe with motor oil in a pinch it doesn't work good, threads come out all tore up Ive used pipe dope and its better than motor oil its a mess but if using hand dyes with no cutting oil you gotta gettr done . When I started plumbing on new homes and we had many drips under angle stops they were tight as heck but no dope on them. I've revere heard of oil on the threads but if any one has done hundreds or thousands with good luck please comment if you are a believer in oil., I personally have never heard any technical explanation for why you would use both dope and tape. It doesn't make any sense to me. They get in each other's way. If dope is better, use that, and if tape is better, use that. That's my thinking. Both claim to lubricate and seal. Personally I trust dope when it comes to sealing a threaded joint, especially something like a shower arm that can't be tightened to exactly where you want it. I appreciate your patience. Can you help this amateur and define "installed right"? Plumb and level and straight I know. Round and smooth I understand More than hand tight, or snugged up, or… ? The parts are soft plastic. If they are aligned correctly and there is no grit or anything else to get in the way of the seal, it will compress correctly and be leakproof for non-pressurized drains. Hand tight is tight enough (but we don't all have the same hand strength do we?) It will compress the plastic and form a good seal. Anything else in there just gunks everything up. If it's leaking, something is wrong - don't add pipe dope to fix it. Interesting. I was always taught to dope all unions. So all traps, tailpiece washers, and all that...all doped. I've had sink traps assembled by others that were tight, but no dope, and leaking. I've disassembled and doped and retested and all OK. It's a band-aid to fix a problem that should be fixed a different way. It's not simply a matter of being tight. It could be misaligned, it could be cross threaded, it could have some grit in there, it could be a defective part. In fact I've actually seen where someone has used pipe sealant, then when replacing something like the faucet (including the sink drain) and putting it back together it started leaking, because a hardened nugget of the old pipe sealant blocked the seal. I personally have never heard any technical explanation for why you would use both dope and tape. It doesn't make any sense to me. They get in each other's way. If dope is better, use that, and if tape is better, use that. That's my thinking. Both claim to lubricate and seal. Personally I trust dope when it comes to sealing a threaded joint, especially something like a shower arm that can't be tightened to exactly where you want it. In many situations, I think that's true, but as a DIYer who works on >80 year old joints, there are time when I like to use both. For example, I generally feel that tape makes the joint easier to take apart a few years later than most dopes, but the dope generally does a better job if there surfaces are a little less than perfect. If you can replace the parts, ok sure, but if it's a threaded brass tee that's going to mean a lot of work in a spooky crawlspace if it doesn't seal, I'll add a little dope to that tape.I'd have to imagine if you were doing dozens of joints, and wanted to minimize the chance of a leak due to a bad fitting, you might find the same. I personally have never heard any technical explanation for why you would use both dope and tape. It doesn't make any sense to me. They get in each other's way. If dope is better, use that, and if tape is better, use that. That's my thinking. Both claim to lubricate and seal. Personally I trust dope when it comes to sealing a threaded joint, especially something like a shower arm that can't be tightened to exactly where you want it. I was taught to use both.. But later asked Why?.. no answer other than That is the Way We Do Things... I asked Hercules and they said that they Only suggest using Dope over Tape on 2" and larger threads. Most of what I do is base on decades of experience of doing it in the field. I have done everything anybody else has ever mentioned. I can make any of them work most of the time. There are a couple of "go to's" that I often resort to. For some history. When I was a child, my mother told me how she had helped her dad at water lines and electrical wires to their home in Chimacum Washington. A small farm, with barn and chicken coop. She used to rub a bar of soap on the pipe threads to lubricate them so that they will thread in and seal. You can also thread metal fittings with three wraps of tape, pipe dope, three wraps and some dope brushed over. For anglestops, I was an apprentice, required to disassemble the nuts off of them out of the box and brush them up with dope. One day I read the instructions on the box, Use light lubricate on threads. So then I started spraying them with WD40.I have installed them right out of the box and they work, sprayed them with oil and it works, touched just a little pipe dope at the end of the threads of the stop where the sleeve will rest. Brasscraft doesn't like dope touching the sleeve. I use just a little though. Last edited: Nov 21, 2022 I have used some pipe dope on the threads first to help hold the tape in place. I have not done many joints. I think using both is more important on plastic threads, where you don't want to over-torque.I have used pipe dope on brass compression nuts for lubrication, as an alternative to silicone grease. I have also used dope on brass compression ferrules. This was after I had a leak when I did not use the dope, but I also used more torque on the re-do. The extra torque would have probably been sufficient. COPPER COMPRESSION INLET1. Place compression nut and sleeve onto the copper tube.2. A drop of general purpose oil will make tightening easier.3. If using a drop of oil or thread sealant be sure the threads are clean of any debris and that sealant is also free of any metal debris. DO NOT USE a putty, gasket material or thread seal tape.4. If using a thread sealant, apply a thin even coat to the male compression threads only taking care not to get thread sealant on the compression ring or sealing surface. IMPORTANT: Excessive thread sealant may cause joint to fail.5. Hand tighten the compression nut onto the stop as far as it will allow.6. Using hand tools, tighten 3/4 turn from the hand tight position. Note: Make sure that the stop remains seated and square to the copper tube. If the stop is not square to the copper tube, this could affect the ability to get a good connection. CAUTION: DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN as this could lead to future failure.7. For riser tube installation, see that section. CAUTION: STOP MUST BE USED IN THE FULLY OPENED OR FULLY CLOSED POSITION. COPPER COMPRESSION OUTLET 1. Cut the riser tube to length so it bottoms out in the stop.2. Place compression nut and sleeve onto the copper tube.3. A drop of general purpose oil will make tightening easier.4. If using a drop of oil or thread sealant be sure the threads are clean of any debris and that sealant is also free of any metal debris. DO NOT USE a putty, gasket material or thread seal tape. FLEXIBLE NUT X NUT CONNECTORBe sure to shut off water before starting.CAUTION: BE SURE TO IDENTIFY THE CORRECT WATER SUPPLY CONNECTION BEFORE BEGINNING INSTALLATION PROCEDURE. APPLICATION OF THIS CONNECTOR WITH THE INCORRECT WATER SUPPLY CONNECTION MAY CAUSE LEAKS.1. Shut off water supply at stop.2. Remove old supply tubes.3. Thread wing nut of connector onto faucet shank or toilet ballcock and hand tighten only. For connectors with metal nuts, hand tighten, then wrench tighten 1/4 turn more. CAUTION: DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN as this could lead to future failure.Tools Needed for Installation: Wrench Protective clothNOTE: Connector includes washers, DO NOT USE THREAD SEALANT. PEX COMPRESSION OUTLET Be sure to shut off water before starting. NOTE: On 3/8 in. OD and smaller, use plastic compression sleeve. On tubing larger than 3/8 in. OD, use brass compression sleeve w/stainless steel tube insert. 1. Cut the riser tube to length so it bottoms out in the stop. 2. Place compression nut and sleeve onto the PEX tube. 3. If larger than 3/8 in. OD, insert stainless steel tube insert. 4. A drop of general purpose oil will make tightening easier. 5. If using a drop of oil or thread sealant be sure the threads are clean of any debris and that sealant is also free of any metal debris. DO NOT USE a putty, gasket material or thread seal tape. 6. If using a thread sealant, apply a thin even coat to the male compression threads only taking care not to get thread sealant on the compression ring or sealing surface. IMPORTANT: Excessive thread sealant may cause joint to fail. 7. Hand tighten the compression nut onto the stop as far as it will allow. 8. Using hand tools, tighten 1-1/2 to 2 turns from the hand tight position. Note: Make sure that the riser remains seated and square to the stop. If the riser is not square to the stop, this could affect the ability to get a good connection. CAUTION: DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN as this could lead to future failure 9. For inlet tube installation, see that section SLIP-JOINT OUTLET Be sure to shut off water before starting. NOTE: Do not use pipe compound on slip-joint threads.1. Be sure tube is not flattened out-of-round and all burrs are removed. If tube is oval or out-of-round, do not rely on the nut to correct. Bring into shape before tightening nut. Replace tube if it is grooved, pocked or scarred as abrasions prevent a good seal.2. Slide slip-joint nut, friction ring and cone washer onto tube.3. Be sure tube is lined up with valve so it enters straight and bottoms true. If cocked or tilted, nut will not seat properly and could eventually develop a leak.4. Tighten nut, wrench tighten. DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN. Use tape to protect the finish.5. Turn on main water supply. Turn on valve counterclockwise. If slip-joint nut leaks, turn off water supply. Back off (loosen) nut completely, realign and retighten. CAUTION: DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN as this could lead to future failure.Tools Needed for Installation: Wrench Protective tape Sandpaper or file (if necessary COLD EXPANSION PEX ON INLET Be sure to shut off water before starting. For use ASTM F876/F877/F1960 PEX only. CAUTION: ASSEMBLE STOP ACCORDING TO PEX COLD EXPANSION TOOL MANUFACTURERS INSTRUCTIONS. 1. Cut PEX tube so that the end is square and round. 2. Slide the PEX reinforcement ring over the PEX tube. 3. Follow the PEX cold expansion tool manufacturers instructions for installation of the stop barb inlet. 4. For riser tube installation,

break the surface down into the water. This isn't realistic. Experts said the findings were 'frightening' given the scale of the problem and the link between the toxins and serious health conditions like cancer, infertility, birth defects and hormone issues The issue have been when these companies dump it into the water or runoff from manufacturers. Not related to using tape on water pipe. More like the Teflon coated pans that you scrape up and eat from. The tape doesn't contaminate the water. The wetted surface of a joint that has been taped is going to be beyond tiny, if any at all. Then you'd have to break the surface down into the water. This isn't realistic.The issue have been when these companies dump it into the water or runoff from manufacturers. Not related to using tape on water pipe. More like the Teflon coated pans that you scrape up and eat from. I understand what you are saying, in my area it's been sludge applied to agricultural fields contaminating wells and ground water. I realize the tape is a small contact point, however I'm trying to reduce any potential contamination due to existing health problems. My original question was really can I make threaded unions without tape or dope without them leaking, not to ignite controversy about PTFE and PFAS.And for what it's worth - we don't use Teflon pans for just that reason. I understand what you are saying, in my area it's been sludge applied to agricultural fields contaminating wells and ground water. I realize the tape is a small contact point, however I'm trying to reduce any potential contamination due to existing health problems. My original question was really can I make threaded unions without tape or dope without them leaking, not to ignite controversy about PTFE and PFAS.And for what it's worth - we don't use Teflon pans for just that reason. I am not a plumber. I have heard old plumbers say they used to use soap to lubricate the threads back in the day. I dont know if that works or not. In my house (where I have to live with the consequences of any leaks) I use tape then dope for anything that is pressurized and just tape for anything that is not. The answer is yes you can make a joint without tape, but you can't consistently be confident that you won't have a leak. If you gonna attempt it be prepared to redo done stuff and probably deal with a nagging drip. The quality of threded joints isn't consistent enough to make a lot of connections without tape. If you keep the tape and the dope back a couple of threads there wouldn't be much if any exposure to the water. I understand the concern of contaminants and being proactive is good. The true sad part is we've screwed the pooch on this and I really don't see anything turning it around. I can't have a well where I live in a rural county because of dumping at a private landfill that contaminated the ground water, no cleanup just monitoring so we can know just how contaminated it is. Of course no liability for the polluter as it's part of a corporation and untouchable. No matter what your water flows through it's going to have some effect on your final drinking water. We will all now depend on science to try and provide us with "acceptable" drinking water and breathing air. I am tiling my bathroom floor. It's currently a little off level and may still be when I'm done. I'm planning to re-use my existing toilet for now to limit the costs. I want to mount it in such a way that it will be solid and level even if the floor is not and I want it to look good. The trick is I also want to be able to replace the toilet later without leaving traces of the mounting material stuck to the tiles. I was considering using grout or plaster on the toilet base with plumber's putty as a distant third choice. I think grout would look best and be most durable but may be hard to remove from the tile later when I change toilets. From what I read plaster of paris works well but is a little old fashioned. I think it may be easier to remove from the tile later though. I'm pretty sure plumber's putty would be easiest to remove but is my last choice. It just doesn't look that good and I don't think it will stabilize the toilet base as much as grout or plaster. One thought I had was to put the grout or plaster in place on the floor over plastic wrap, then put the toilet in place and let the material set, then lift and remove the plastic leaving the material on the toilet, then add the wax ring and johnny bolts to mount the toilet permanently. Will this work with the plastic wrap? Would grout or plaster work better in this scenario? If this won't work and I have to put the material directly on the tile, would I be able to remove grout or plaster from the tile later without traces? Any other thoughts? Thanks, Scott We use composite plastic door shims if the floor is not level. Shim near the back, slid the shim in, score with a knife, and snap off.It takes two seconds with door shims. Score and Snap!The caulk around the front with clear PolySeamSeal.Don't use Silicone, grout, plaster or putty. Putty is just some clay with oil in it.It's the worst thing you could use. Clear PolySeamSeal, it's in the painting department.The shims are in the door department. Don't buy shims in the plumbing department. Plumbers don't use them, they take about fifteen minutes to slice off. This is a sponsored advertisement. Most use shims to keep the toilet from rocking (and minor leveling), then use a caulk. You should be able to get a toilet colored caulk - especially easy if it is white. Polyseamseal is often mentioned as one that is fairly easy to install, and remove later. An alternative might be a grout colored caulk...at least with this, if any was left when removing the toilet, it probably wouldn't glare at you. Grout could be a major pain to remove from the tile and the inevitable grout joints of the tile. Plaster of paris could also be a pain to remove. Thanks for the info. I did plan to use shims for levelling the toilet but had only seen the small clear ones near the toilet items in the store. Thanks for the tip on the composite door shims. It's a white toilet so caulk will match fine. I wouldn't dream of using silicone, that stuff never comes off. I'll look for the Polyseamseal, maybe do a test on a spare tile. Thanks, Scott Last edited: Sep 25, 2009 Ace and other stores have plastic toilet shims. Ace and other stores have plastic toilet shims. Which are totally worthless. Get the plastic door shims. We install toilets all day long. I would "LOVE" to see an Ace Hardware guy try using those shims and then trying to trim them. You can't do it. I think the toilet shims are probably great when the bowl rocks and you want to slide one in without removing the whole toilet. No need to cut, just jamb it in there. I got some composite shims and test fit the base. It didn't even take a full thickness shim to bring it to level. I also put a level on the floor. It's not too bad, I've fixed worse. I should be able to level it out while I'm installing the tile. Thanks again, Scott Which are totally worthless. Get the plastic door shims. We install toilets all day long. I would "LOVE" to see an Ace Hardware guy try using those shims and then trying to trim them. You can't do it. I am so glad to hear you say that. I used the plastic shims (got them at Home Depot) and just had one he** of a time trimming those things. I couldn't figure out what I was doing wrong. Next time I'll look for the door shims instead. When I caulk the base of the toilet, should I seal it all the way around? It seems like that is code in most places but it also seems like many people leave a gap at the back to detect leaks. I'm on the top floor of a condo so being able to detect a leak before my downstairs neighbor tells me about it would certainly be great. Scott I'd leave the back open... We use composite plastic door shims if the floor is not level. Shim near the back, slid the shim in, score with a knife, and snap off.The caulk around the front with clear PolySeamSeal.Don't use Silicone, grout, plaster or putty. Putty is just some clay with oil in it.It's the worst thing you could use. Clear PolySeamSeal, it's in the painting department.The shims are in the door department. I was wondering, why not Silicone? Thanks. Edit: Please disregard, found the answer elsewhere in the forums. Last edited by a moderator: Oct 12, 2016 Which are totally worthless. Get the plastic door shims. We install toilets all day long. I would "LOVE" to see an Ace Hardware guy try using those shims and then trying to trim them. You can't do it. I wish I had gotten the door shims. A Big Box guy talked me out of it and showed me these instead...I had not read your post about them being difficult to trim, but thought they might be challenging while examining them. The guy said, "Just cut them with a chisel" to which I was thinking, "hammering a chisel against tile?" I needed shims for one of three toilets. I did succeed in trimming them, but like you said, it wasn't easy. It isn't practical to just cut them off with a blade because of the position. For those in a similar situation here is what worked for me: 1. After inserting them and tightening the johnny bolts I scored the exposed shims with a sharp, new utility knife blade--many times to establish a notch. 2. Then by hand and without using a hammer, I pressed the edge of a thin wood chisel down hard into the notch rocking side-to-side across the length of the notch in several places to deepen it. 3. Finally I slipped a wider chisel under the exposed end of the shim within the groove on the back of the shim, then I pry-levered upward to snap the shim fairly cleanly. To my surprise this worked. I know this may be a strange question but here it goes. Why do you put plumbers putter around the base of the toilet when you install it? I think if there was a leak around the wax ring and the plumbers putty was used it would seal in the water and cause the floor to rot around it. Without the putty the water would come out from the base of the toilet and you can then see the leak and fix it. Comments?? Thanks Stan That's why in some areas, the inspectors insist that you don't seal all the way around the bowl. Trapped water under the bowl can cause rot.I don't use plumbers putty either.It has oils that will discolor some floors. I prefer something like PolySeamSeal. Last edited: Oct 12, 2016 This is a sponsored advertisement. I agree with TerryTerry is right. I read from books that you may want to leave behind unsealed, just in case there is water leakage down below. groutI found that toilet manufacturers don't make toilet bowls that won't wobble and when you couple that with a ceramic floor that's hard to get perfectly level, you do have to shim and grout, not calk, to make the setting of the toilet solid. I prefer to come close to the color of the grout in the tile. can't get the wobble out? I loosen the bolts, jam pennies around different points that can fit them and cinch the toilet down again, works every single time… and I sometimes leave them uncaulked, sometimes the owner specifically asks for none… I've never put plumbers putty under there! plumber1Who uses plumbers putty? I don't know, who uses plumbers putty? I might have commented on that from Stan's original post... wobble Pennies are temporary unless you grout right away. If you want a good finished job I think you should grout and not calk, unless it's a job that gets inspected and is required. putty "Decades" ago plumber's putty was used to set the toilets, like the wax rings are used now. But even then the putty was not used to seal around the base of the toilet. It does not bond to the toilet and floor, nor does it harden up within any reasonable time, so it will not prevent "wiggles". It can stain the floor and will discolor over time. Here, the inspectors specifically look at the bottom rear of the toilet to be sure that spot was not left uncaulked. Last edited by a moderator: Jun 27, 2012 PuttyMy plumber used putty instead of a wax ring to set my Champion toilet. So far so good. putty Putty will do in a pinch. But what plumber won't have wax rings on the truck? I think that you were short changed. Often a bead of putty on top of the wax ring will be used to ensure a good seal. This is different from using it to set the base of the toilet. Often a bead of putty on top of the wax ring will be used to ensure a good seal. This is different from using it to set the base of the toilet. BINGO!! I learn things everyday on this forum. Never thought of that... Thanks, Regards, Tom Wax is supposed stick to the bottom of the toilet. That's why they don't glaze the bottom of toilets. I don't really see why wax wouldn't be used, since it does such a good job of sticking to the toilet. putty Putty certainly won't help and will hinder a good seal. I would never do that. sealIF the gap between the toilet and flange is the correct distance, then using putty will not accomplish anything and may defeat the purpose of the wax seal. It will not adhere to the toilet and the oil in it will prevent it from sticking to the wax. When the toilet is placed in position, the putty will either spread out if it is soft enough, or indent the wax if it has slightly hardened. But in either case, the amount of material between the flange and toilet will be the same, regardless of what that material is. IF the gap between the toilet and flange is the correct distance, then using putty will not accomplish anything and may defeat the purpose of the wax seal. It will not adhere to the toilet and the oil in it will prevent it from sticking to the wax. When the toilet is placed in position, the putty will either spread out if it is soft enough, or indent the wax if it has slightly hardened. But in either case, the amount of material between the flange and toilet will be the same, regardless of what that material is. OK..... cancel the tip about using putty on the wax ring. Thanks..... I am constantly pulling up old toilets in my area where plumber's putty was used under the toilet as a rule, not the exception. I always use wax rings without the horn built into the ring. OK, what IS the correct distance? IF the gap between the toilet and flange is the correct distance, then using putty will not accomplish anything and may defeat the purpose of the wax seal. It will not adhere to the toilet and the oil in it will prevent it from sticking to the wax. When the toilet is placed in position, the putty will either spread out if it is soft enough, or indent the wax if it has slightly hardened. But in either case, the amount of material between the flange and toilet will be the same, regardless of what that material is. Does this "correct distance" vary with the toilet, wax ring, etc.? putty If you need more thickness, just reach down and pinch the seal to make it stand a little taller or take a second seal and slice off as much as you need. You need some excess wax..... Hi folks, I really appreciate the help I've gotten on this forum. Our new Drake is installed, and has been awesome. (Only toilet in the house, eight of us (kids from 12 years down to 4 using it), almost a month now and we've had NO clogs, the CEFIONTECT (CeFiONtect) really does cut down on cleaning, and I'm a happy mama. (At least on that point. lol)Now, I'm putting together the drain & trap for my new kitchen sink (Ikea Domsjo apron-front), and I've read somewhere that stainless strainers with a rubber gasket underneath don't need anything to seal them on the topside. (I read it on the internet, so it must be true, right?) The strainer that came with the sink has a generous rubber gasket underneath the sink that seems to really snug up and seal well, and a thin white styrofoam-looking gasket for the inside-the-sink side of things. But. The white gasket leaves a space between the flange of the strainer and the sink surface, as the gasket isn't as wide as the strainer flange. I don't want to leave it that way, as I won't be able to clean under there. (Yuk!) And it just doesn't look nice, with the flange standing proud of the sink surface. But I'm not sure I want to use plumber's putty, either, as it's so stinky and I'll be using the sink to wash/prep bulk produce. I've used plumber's putty before, and so I know how . . . I just want to be sure it's what I really need to do before actually using it.Fwiw, looking at the way the strainer is constructed, any dripping water that might find its way under the strainer flange would be caught in the gasket and directed down the drain. The gaskets go underneath the sink locknut.Plumbers putty under the sink strainer and I prefer teflon paste ontop of the gasket +top threads under the sink.Most others use putty or some no callback guys even use caulk....I've seen a new foam type gasket that replaces plumbers putting, but I highly doubt they will supply this in the strainer box as a ~kit~ This is a sponsored advertisement. This type of strainer doesn't have a locknut. It's got a deep, conical plastic base under the sink, and is held in place like a tub strainer, with a threaded bolt that's tightened from the top.I'm *this close* to getting a more standard strainer, though. The one I have has a threaded connection for a tailpiece, but my drain is high enough in the wall that I'm not sure I can afford the length of this one. Ditch the top gasket if you want, but I'd recommend using putty instead of nothing. You actually cannot avoid having putty under the flange, because if you don't useplumbers putty you'll eventually acquire a "putty" made up of random sink crud which will smell a LOT worse than any plumber's putty. Point well taken, and thanks! Now, if dh will just get back with the parts I still need . . . The thick gasket prevents ALL leaks between the strainer and the sink. You do NOT need anything between the top ring and the sink, because any water that leaks past it will be trapped in the strainer because the "plug" is preventing water from flowing through the bottom piece. Thanks, hj. I ended up using the strainer that came with the sink, installed the way you described. It works like a charm (unlike the other one I tried--ugh!).Thanks so much, everyone, for your help. I have a working kitchen sink for the first time in a month!!! And now that I have a kitchen sink, I can get the utility sink out of the bathroom, and install the cute vanity & sink I've got for it. Now, if only I didn't have to cook or clean and I could go straight to that project . . . The manufacturer of the new Garbage Disposal we are installing in a couple days says IF you have a stainless steel sink do not use plumber putty under the sink flange when installing, use the rubber gasket they provide instead. Well, I understand they are the manufacturer, but I am more interested in what plumbers have to say from experience. I have had plumbers work on the other side of our sink before and watched them use plumbers putty before reinstalling a new sink flange, not a rubber gasket. So you can understand my confusion here. Please tell me what you use, and maybe why? I really dont want to have to tear it all apart because I did the wrong thing and got a leak at the end of the install. Thank you. This is a sponsored advertisement. The flange piece that sets in the sink that the putty or rubber seal would go under is metal, not plastic. Thank you for your reply! The flange piece that sets in the sink that the putty or rubber seal would go under is metal, not plastic. Thank you for your reply! Are you sure? There are plastic plumbing fixtures with plating or a thin metal faade. They look like metal, but lack the strength and durability. Yes, in the specs it states it has a stainless steel sink flange. We chose this model because it is the newest version of the model we already have. This last one lasted 20 years. It is a GE. I do not care what kind of rubber gasket it is, it is still too thick to put under the flange and NOT "pool" water around the drain. I always use plumber's putty. hj, how long do you think the new GE disposers are going to last? I won't install these either. 2,800 RPM? Isn't that a little fast? I have always considered GE disposers to be "pencil sharpeners" from their sound. That GE looks like a Waste King wearing a Darth Vader helmet.I did install a Waste King last year on my stainless steel kitchen sink which used the rubber gasket. Found it a cheap toy to play with replacing an old Insinkerator. With the Waste King I find that crud builds up faster on that side of the sink than the other that has a traditional strainer with putty. Never noticed the problem before. In addition to the thickness of the rubber gasket it may be the size of the flange is a tad small so leaves a gap catching debris? I have been plumbing the house I'm trying to build and I'm almost done with rough-in and starting to second guess myself before the walls get covered up. For my shower and tub drain I used a high grade silicone to set the drain assembly instead of plumbers putty. Is this OK? It seems like people do both. Which is better?Thanks ahead of time for any advice? This is a sponsored advertisement. The mistake a lot of DIY make with Plumber's Putty is when they use TOO MUCH of it.Manufacturers' will let you know if you can use it or not, ie. tub drains that contact the tub. If it is something you are NEVER going to replace and it is hard to get to, such as a shower drain, silicone. Otherwise plumber's putty. Silicone for me. Anything I don't want to leak which is, well, everything. Clean up with WD 40. Sometimes a bit of plumbers putty in my slip nuts but usually Laco Slicktite. Phenoseal for sink and WC caulk joints because it's water soluble for easier clean up. Silicone on basket strainers. Last edited by a moderator: Jan 13, 2021 If it is something you are NEVER going to replace and it is hard to get to, such as a shower drain, silicone. Otherwise plumber's putty. Same for tub drains. Putty for the strainer, nothing on the rubber seal between tub and tub drain.I reserve Silicone for shower drains. On lav pop-ups, pipe dope on the threads where it goes through the large rubber washer to prevent water from rolling down the threads. On compression sleeves, normally nothing, or maybe light oil. Anything with a seal, like a flex lav supply, or a flex water heater supply, nothing. I use putty for sink baskets. Last edited: Jan 13, 2021 If the silicone works, you don't really need to think about it. If the silicone fails and you need to clean things up, you will learn to see the positive side to putty. quote; a bit of plumbers putty in my slip nutsAha! So YOU are the person doing that. Thanks for making my miserable when I have to try to loosen them in a small cabinet. My suspicion is that every cabinet is considered a "small cabinet" if you have a "typical" plumbers frame. My sincere apologies for the countless years of misery I have personally caused you. Ha Ha I do NOT detect "sincerity" in your apology, and I am much smaller than the stereotypic plumber. Plumber's putty for basket strainers, and here's why: if the sink users accidentally break the seal between the strainer and the sink, it will leak whenever there is water being held in the sink. For instance, in the triple sinks in a bar, used for washing glasses. The resultant leak is in a rarely seen area, and by the time its found, it is very, very ugly. Well, ok, you guys are plumbers, so ugly is the probably the usual for you, but still... (And I'm saying this in a very respectful way,honestly.) Pipe dope is for "pipe" thread (tapered thread) I don't use Silicone on baskets for sinks. That's a little too permanent for me. Yesterday the homeowner wanted to replace the basket on his seven year old Kohler undermount kitchen sink for the disposer. I tried to remove it, it was was glued on very well. I looked at the nice cast iron sink, the stone counters, and thought.....the old flange isn't all that bad. If I start cutting and prying, they may be into a new sink and counter though.We did get the new Kohler hands free faucet installed, and the Insinkerator hot/cold dispenser installed. And a new TOTO Carlyle installed in his upstairs with a Dahl TOTO angled shutoff.I use putty or stainless putty on baskets. Last edited: Feb 28, 2019 Other way around... putty stains marble not silicone Last edited by a moderator: Jul 14, 2016 They also make Stainless Putty for use on marble. Last edited: Feb 28, 2019 Easiest way to figure out which to use, is it plastic or metal.Plastic, use silicone, if its metal silicone or putty.The majority of putty is oil based which contaminates the plastic and causes a failure.Read the putty container it will tell you if it can be used on plastic, most have it in bold font "DO NOT USE ON PLASTIC" hello. sorry for such a newbe question. but i have never messed with gas pipes. my hwh started leaking. so i am about to replace it. it is natural gas. is plumbers putty good for the threads ? if not, what ? if there is anything you would like to add to a first time 40gl gas hwh swapper ?! thanx One word of advice, "Do not depend on the original installation to meet current installation requirements". You cannot always put the new one in just like the old one was, and if you think plumber's putty is a proper thread sealant for ANYTHING, especially gas, then you have NOT done much piping. This is a sponsored advertisement. One word of advice, "Do not depend on the original installation to meet current installation requirements". You cannot always put the new one in just like the old one was, and if you think plumber's putty is a proper thread sealant for ANYTHING, especially gas, then you have NOT done much piping. yeah. i can't count the # of code violations i have had to repair from the builder. i think the code officer was in the pockets of the builder. ok, then what should i use ? i forgot to get a pan when i baught the richmond hwh yesterday. so i have to go to HD anyway.thanx oh, btw. GREAT state you have there ! that stuff WOULD NOT happen here in il. I wouldn't say that, but any pipe joint compound will seal the threads. Fill the WH with water and purge the air from the system before you fire it up. Back to the question>>> plumbers putty is never used on threads of any kind. PIPE DOPE, also called pipe thread paste, is what to use. Great White, Megaloc, Rectorseal Tplus2, are some good ones. Don't forget to use a soapy water solution on the gas pipes when you turn the gas back on, we want zero leaks thanx guys. WH is in. i put a pan/drain in. i flushed the living poop out of it. i would say at least 100 gallons.i used Tplus2.i soaped up the joints. no leaks. and new dielectric fittings and a new shut off valve. idk what kind of sealer the builder used. but it sure looked like plumbers puddy. i have another question. on the in/out fittings of the WH. there is a blue plastic gasket (for lack of a better term). what is that for ?thanx If you are talking about the nipples that often come pre-attached to the water heater, the blue is a plastic dielectric lining to prevent corrosion of the outlet fitting. quote; the blue is a plastic dielectric lining to prevent corrosion of the outlet fitting. That is what it is SUPPOSED to do, but seldom does it. yes, the pre-attatched nipples. i looked down in these nipples. there looked to be some kind of valveage down there about 2"s. what is that for ?thanx guys I'm installing a new bathtub in my basement and having a very difficult time getting the tub drain to seal. It is just a standard 5' x 30" white bathtub (Aqua Glass brand). It is a newer home (2 years old). I had to slightly move the drain in the slab to accommodate the new tub and framed walls, but I'm fairly confident the drain is fine. I have the tub set in it's position and I am trying to thread in the chrome drain into the female ABS drain underneath the tub. I bought a standard tub drain kit from Home Depot. The kit came with a rubber gasket that to my knowledge goes between the ABS and the tub. I am then using Plumbers Putty on the drain and trying to thread it into the ABS. The problem is that every time I do this, I test the drain by filling the tub with some water (from a bucket) and it is leaking between the seal and the tub (where the plumbers putty should be sealing it off). I've tried it multiple times, each time trying slight variations of more or less Plumbers Putty and varying degrees of tightness. No matter what I do, I can't get it to seal. When I disassemble it, the plumbers putty always seems to be wedged on the underside of the tub between the rubber gasket and the underside of the tub. Much of this seems to come from the threading motion of the chrome drain into the ABS. I'm at a loss and quite frustrated because I'm trying to also finish off the adjacent bedroom but can't continue hanging drywall until I'm comfortable that this drain issue is resolved. Here are some pictures of the drain that will hopefully help you understand what I'm referring to: The drain showing the rope of plumbers putty that I'm putting on it: The tub drain package I purchased at Home Depot showing the assembly of parts. The rubber gasket in the picture is what I am putting on the underside of the tub. The ABS drain seems to be in the appropriate position and there is very little, if any gap, between the underside of the tub and the ABS. I have to wedge the rubber gasket in between the two. Here is a picture of the tub and the ABS female drain that I am threading the chrome drain in to. From my perspective, it seems like the drain is properly positioned (not askew to one side or the other). The chrome drain and the rubber gasket. I am putting the rubber gasket on the under side of the tub between the tub and the ABS. I am then using plumbers putty between the top surface of the tub and the chrome drain. Last edited by a moderator: Sep 6, 2017 Putty will not seal Try to get another person to help you hold the drain down, while attaching the plate on the bottom. You have to put a lot of putty between it and the tub on the top surface, then wait at least 24 hours to let it set before testing. I have the same problem with a porcelean sink, but it will hold for more then a minute, so I am not as worried as it would if it was the tub. This is a sponsored advertisement. made up correctly you should be able to test it immediately. Don't use too much puddy, it will only sqeeze out in between the strainer and shoe. Make sure the shoe (the threaded part that goes underneath) sits squarely against the (washer) when you tighten the strainer into it. When doing tub drains I putty the chrome part (work it in your hands until it is very soft). I then put it in place on the chrome part and press down until it is about 90% into position and the putty has pushed out. I scrape off any putty that has pushed out the bottom of the tub. I then remove the chrome part, if necessary, and thread it into the shoe and complete the installation. I can't remember the last time I had a leak. Last edited by a moderator: Sep 6, 2017 use lots of putty I dont care what others say, if you use a lot of putty ans simply let it squeeze out wherever it pleases you will probably do ok... It might not be a bad idea if you have a mean one to also grease up the threads and socket with some plumbers pipe dope for extra measure..... the pipe dope will help to seal the joint, especially when you got a mean one that does not want to play fair. and are you useing a tub wrench to tighten that drain shoe down into the drian tight enough?? Needle nose pliers wil work fine, but a tub prong or wrench really tightens it down better drainYour first mistake is assuming the putty is the problem. The rubber gasket on the bottom seals the drain from leaking. The putty just prevents the water in the tub from leaking into the drain if the tub opening is uneven. If you did not care if the water eventually all drained from the tub with the plug closed, then you would not need the putty. Your first mistake is assuming the putty is the problem. The rubber gasket on the bottom seals the drain from leaking. The putty just prevents the water in the tub from leaking into the drain if the tub opening is uneven. If you did not care if the water eventually all drained from the tub with the plug closed, then you would not need the putty. that is why it is important to make sure the tub shoe sits squarely up against the washer and bottom of the tub. Some puddy's are not as soft as others, sometimes if you use a less soft one and too much of it, it will squeeze down between the strainer and shoe (where the bottom washer is). It will feel tight and won't leak immediately, but eventually the excess puddy will squeeze out and the drain will leak. If you use dope, don't use an oil based one as it will eat the plastic drain. Use teflon based dope instead. If the shoe isn't sitting squarely then it can easily be cross threaded. drainI screw the drain part way into the fitting, and then squeeze the putty between the drain flange and tub before tightening it the rest of the way. made up correctly you should be able to test it immediately. Don't use too much puddy, it will only sqeeze out in between the strainer and shoe. Make sure the shoe (the threaded part that goes underneath) sits squarely against the (washer) when you tighten the strainer into it. First of all....thanks to all of you for the many responses. I've used varying amounts of puddy. The problem seems to be that when I use a liberal amount, it oozes out between the strainer and the rubber gasket and then the gasket doesn't seal against the bottom of the tub and that is where it is leaking. The other problem is that when I disassemble it (after discovering that it is leaking), there doesn't really seem to be much puddy at all between the chrome lip of the strainer and the surface of the tub. As a result, the water is just leaking under the lip of the strainer and then getting between the poor seal of the puddy and rubber gasket. I have just been using a large set of heavy-duty needle nose pliers to twist the strainer in. I was thinking of going down to Harbor Freight and picking up a cheap drain wrench if that will make the difference, but it sure seems tight the way I'm doing it. When doing tub drains I putty the chrome part (work it in your hands until it is very soft). I then put it in place on the chrome part and press down until it is about 90% into position and the putty has pushed out. I scrape off any putty that has pushed out the bottom of the tub. I then remove the chrome part, if necessary, and thread it into the shoe and complete the instlation. I can't remember the last time I had a leak. I'm trying to make sure I'm understanding your suggestion. Let my try and re-state and you tell me if I'm getting it right. You first put a rope of putty around the underside of the lip on the chrome strainer (as in my picture above). You then push this down through the hole in the tub (without threading it in to the shoe?) quite firmly until you get a sense for how much of the putty is going to ooze out of the edges. You then scrape off that excess putty, pull the strainer back out and remove any excess putty that has oozed out on the underside of the tub (where the rubber gasket goes?) and then proceed to thread the strainer into the shoe as normal? This seems to make sense, but the problem I am having is the threading motion. It seems to "twist" out all of the putty between the lip of the strainer and the tub surface. Your first mistake is assuming the putty is the problem. The rubber gasket on the bottom seals the drain from leaking. The putty just prevents the water in the tub from leaking into the drain if the tub opening is uneven. If you did not care if the water eventually all drained from the tub with the plug closed, then you would not need the putty. I think I understand your point. To test your theory, couldn't I just thread in the strainer into the shoe without any putty (using the rubber gasket on the underside) and see if doesn't leak? The problem is that it is not leaking into the drain. It is leaking out on to the cement floor under the drain. There does not seem to be a good seal between the rubber gasket and the tub, partly caused by the putty oozing between the gasket and the tub creating an uneven surface. When I look at the other tubs in my house, the chrome strainer seems to sit really tight and flush against the tub surface. No matter how tight I try to get this one there seems to be more of a gap/ridge between the surface of the tub and the lip on the strainer than I think is normal. Remove excess putty from under the tub without removing the strainer. Then, and only if the shoe and gasget can't be put on without removing the strainer, remove the strainer and install the shoe. The putty "twisting out" is normal. drainIf it leaks without the putty, it will also leak with putty. There is little putty under the flange, because it only takes a small amount to keep the water from leaking past the flange, and then through the threads into the drain fitting. The rubber gasket is your only seal to prevent the drain from leaking outside the tub. You may have to use a thicker gasket, or two of them to make the gap even and seal the fitting to the tub Tub sealingYou don't use a lot of putty on a tub drain, you use it on the strainer, but any excess that protrudes where the so-called rubber washer goes should be removed, Luck.

Why cranking is done in slab. Why we provide crank bar in slab. Why crank is provided in slab. Why we provide crank bar in beam. Why do we provide crank in slab.