



Topic A114-
Getting Alginate Out from Between the Hands?

Here's another Question from a customer:

“I have cast two people holding hands successfully using your alginate, but it is difficult to remove the alginate from between the hands after casting.

Is there any chemical that I can put the casting in to dissolve the alginate?”

Well, Yes and No. There is a chemical that will dissolve alginate, but it also dissolves gypsum cement- so that's not going to work for you.

There are several keys to your current problem that might help now and in the future.

1. Choice of pose- try suggesting poses that make it easier to remove the alginate.
2. Get the right tools- having a good selection of “picking” tools can help out a lot. Try a length of coat hanger wire. Bend the tip over into a small hook and shove it up in there to grab some of those small pieces of alginate.
3. Alginate will shrink- when you've gotten out as much as you can with tools, most of the time no one will ever see any remaining small pieces as they are in places that are hard to get to and coincidentally difficult to see. These small pieces of alginate will also dry and shrink in the first few days. They may just shake out in a couple of days. A blast of compressed air can also dislodge some of them.

That's what we do. Good luck and have fun.