

Sweet Salve



BY TINA WOJTKIELO SNYDER No matter how careful you are in the shop, it's easy to—pardon the pun—get burned. The next time you grab an annealed piece before it's had enough time to cool off, or blister your fingertips after a heated polishing session, don't be a bear and try to tough it out—reach for some honey.

"The anesthetic effect is amazing, and it has antibiotic properties, as well," says Sam Kaffine of Sterlingbliss.com. The honey runs as it warms up on your skin, so be sure to secure it with tissue or tape. Kaffine, a former wildland firefighter with the U.S. Forest Service, claims the honey works so well that she's even applied it

to firefighters' hands burned so badly that they were too painful to use; after 10 minutes with the honey salve, the firefighters were able to return to work as if nothing had happened.

"I've applied honey to my own steam-burned fingers, swollen with red shiny blisters, and they went back to normal in 15 minutes," Kaffine attests. She keeps single-serving packets of honey in her workshop at all times, right next to the electrical tape she uses to cover cuts.

So consider this the next time you make yourself a cup of hot tea and go to shake the last drop of honey into it. You might find yourself reaching for the sugar bowl instead. ♦