

Problem 1.1

[Difficulty: 3]

1.1 A number of common substances are

Tar	Sand
“Silly Putty”	Jello
Modeling clay	Toothpaste
Wax	Shaving cream

Some of these materials exhibit characteristics of both solid and fluid behavior under different conditions. Explain and give examples.

Given: Common Substances

Tar	Sand
“Silly Putty”	Jello
Modeling clay	Toothpaste
Wax	Shaving cream

Some of these substances exhibit characteristics of solids and fluids under different conditions.

Find: Explain and give examples.

Solution: Tar, Wax, and Jello behave as solids at room temperature or below at ordinary pressures. At high pressures or over long periods, they exhibit fluid characteristics. At higher temperatures, all three liquefy and become viscous fluids.

Modeling clay and silly putty show fluid behavior when sheared slowly. However, they fracture under suddenly applied stress, which is a characteristic of solids.

Toothpaste behaves as a solid when at rest in the tube. When the tube is squeezed hard, toothpaste “flows” out the spout, showing fluid behavior. Shaving cream behaves similarly.

Sand acts solid when in repose (a sand “pile”). However, it “flows” from a spout or down a steep incline.