

ADHESIVES FACTSHEET

Adhesives

- All joints that use adhesives (glues) are permanent.
- It is important that the correct adhesives are used for the materials being joined.
- Important to make the areas being glued are as large as possible.
- 4 glues are needed to be learned
- Polyvinyl acetate (PVA)
- Contact adhesive
- Epoxy resin
- Tensol cement

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Contact adhesive

Properties

- Contact adhesives stick on contact
- Used to glue large surface areas such as worktop surfaces
- Both surfaces coated with glue, left for 15-20 minutes then stuck together, hence the name contact adhesives
- Needs to be used in well ventilated areas

Advantages

- Sets in 20-30 minutes
- Works well on large flat surfaces
- Can be used to join dissimilar materials

Disadvantages

- Does not allow repositioning
- Gives off fumes which can result in illness

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Polyvinyl acetate (PVA)

Properties

- Probably the most common type of woodworking glue.
- Easy to use and apply
- Very strong if the joints being used are a good fit
- Work should be clamped when glue is setting

Advantages

- Sets in 2-3 hours
- Excess glue easily removed with a damp cloth
- Does not stain
- Long shelf life

Disadvantages

- Most types are not water-proof

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Epoxy resin

Properties

- Versatile but expensive
- Used to bond any clean dry materials
- Adhesive is supplied in two parts, a resin and a hardener.
- Mixed together in equal parts starts a chemical reaction.
- The glue starts to set immediately

Advantages

- Can be used to join dissimilar materials
- Good joint-filling properties
- waterproof

Disadvantages

- Too expensive to use on large scale work

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Tensol cement

Properties

- This is only used for gluing acrylic
- A clear liquid with a solvent base which evaporates easily.
- Applied to the joint after it has been put together.
- Works by attacking the surface
- Not very strong so surface being glued needs to be large.

Advantages

- Creates a good bond between the surfaces.

Disadvantages

- Gives off fumes which can result in illness.
- Very smooth surfaces need to be roughened a bit.