

Select the Right Glue For Festive Holidays

(MS) — Creating your own holiday decorations and gifts can make this festive season more personal and less expensive. You don't need a lot of tools — great items can be made with simple materials and a tube of glue. The trick is choosing the right glue for your projects, since different materials require different types of adhesives. For example, foam crafts or silk flowers demand a different glue than glass beads attached to a metal box or mosaic tiles adhered to a wooden tray.

With so many adhesives on the market today, choosing the right one for your holiday project can present a very sticky problem! Here are some tips:

- **Carefully match the adhesive to the material.** White glue like Elmer's® works great for paper-to-paper projects, but an industrial-strength adhesive like Amazing GOOP® Craft contact adhesive and sealant works best for bonding unlike materials together such as metal to wood or, for example, to stick glass or polymer clay to the fabric cover of a memory book gift you're creating. It is also the recommended choice when making a fun brooch or pendant out of sheets of copper and tin and colored wire. (Try applying a thin coat to each surface, then press together when dry.) Certain plastics like polyethylene or polystyrene don't bond well with anything unless you use glues designed specifically for those types of plastic, so keep that in mind for crafts. And for wood projects, wood glues work well, of course. Always read the product information on the packaging to determine which works best on the material you are using.

- **Consider project destination.** If you are surprising an avid gardener with colored stone-studded flower pots for the garden, the pots will be exposed to the full range of temperatures for your area. Expansion and contraction over time can weaken adhesives, so make sure the glue you choose remains flexible like Amazing GOOP® Craft adhesive when it dries. Also, consider that it will need to stand up to temperature extremes. Projects that will hang inside a window, where temperature swings are common, also need a versatile adhesive.

- **You should use sun block— and so should your glue.** If your gift project is going to be exposed to direct sunlight, look for a craft adhesive that's labeled "UV resistant" (like Amazing GOOP® Lawn & Garden). No adhesive will withstand ultraviolet radiation forever, but a "UV resistant" adhesive will make crafts last longer. For maximum UV resistance, paint over dried adhesive for added protection.

- **Round and round and round it goes.** Make a holiday gift sparkle by gluing objects to clothing and even pretty guest towels. To be practical, each item needs to survive the washer and dryer. Superglues or adhesives from glue guns will not hold under that kind of heat. Some industrial glues will maintain their bond, but check the package to make sure the adhesive can withstand temperatures up to 150 F and still retain a flexible bond.

- **Not every project needs to last a lifetime.** Certain projects — floral arrangements, for example — don't need to last forever. In this case, floral glue, superglue or a hot-melt glue gun will work just fine. But if you want one superior adhesive that glues almost any two materials together practically forever and will stand up to temperature extremes causing expansion and contraction, Amazing GOOP® Craft adhesive will fill the bill.

- **Clean up your act.** Many of today's favorite projects involve sticking glass to glass — and the cleaner the glass, the better. A diluted vinegar solution works great. But if you want to get glass really clean, burn off impurities with a propane torch (be careful to heat gently!). And you probably didn't know this: the trademark side of the glass is best for adhesives. If the trademark is gone, shine a black light on the glass. The best side for adhesives will glow.

- **Go sparingly, and experiment with similar materials.** Most folks use a lot more glue than they need. Remember to use just enough to squeeze a little out of the joint, and then clean it off. And if you're working with unfamiliar materials or cherished keepsakes, experiment with scrap material first.

- **Avoid sticky situations.** Here's a tip for keeping the caps of your glues from bonding to the tube! Apply a little petroleum jelly to threads after wiping off any extra adhesive.

A little glue and a little imagination can make holiday gift giving personal and special. With the right kind of adhesive, your project will last forever.

For answers to your questions about which kind of adhesive is best for your holiday gift project, call the Amazing GOOP® technical assistance number at (800) 767-4667. Amazing GOOP® Craft and nine other Amazing GOOP® adhesives that "glue whatever and bond forever" are made by Eclectic Products, Inc. For an overview of all Eclectic products, visit www.eclecticproducts.com. *GG05BXXX*