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# GETTING THE MOST GRAB FROM YOUR GLUE

► BY TERESA MORGAN

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

**Carefully match the adhesive to the material.** White glue like *Elmer's* works great for paper-to-paper projects or *Styrofoam*, while an industrial-strength adhesive like *E6000* works best for glass-to-glass application. But when you want to stick glass or polymer clay to paper—on the cover

of your favorite scrapbook, for instance—you also need to go for an industrial-



strength adhesive. Same when you want to bond metal to metal like tin and copper sheets, small metal parts for a brooch or pendant, or forms made of colored wire. (Try applying a thin coat to each surface, then press together when dry.) Certain plastics like polyethylene or polystyrene are difficult to bond with anything other than polyacrylate “superglues,” while nobody’s developed anything better for wood than carpenter’s wood glues. Most craft and home improvement stores provide extensive displays that match materials with the right glues for the job.

**Where’s your project going when it’s done?** If your spiffy new decorated flowerpots are going to be



outside—even under an eave or on a porch—they will still be exposed to the full range of temperatures in your area. Expansion and contrac-

tion over time can weaken adhesives, so make sure that the glue you choose is flexible when it dries and can stand up to temperature extremes.

Similarly, for projects that will hang in a window, where temperature swings are common, you must do the same.

**You need sun block and so does your glue.**

If your project is going to be exposed to direct sunlight, look for an adhesive that is labeled “UV resistant.” No adhesive will withstand ultraviolet radiation forever, but a “UV resistant” adhesive will last much longer. For complete UV resistance, paint over dried adhesive.

**Round and round and round it goes.**

Many crafters today enjoy gluing objects to shirts, pants, coats, and even pretty guest towels! To be practical, each item needs to be able to survive the washer and dryer. Since that means banging your project around in a hot environment for an hour or more at a time, be sure that your adhesive can withstand it. While adhesives from glue guns generally dry quickly on fabric, industrials are stronger in the long run. And don’t expect superglues to hold up at all in the dryer.

**Not everything needs to last a lifetime.** Certain projects—floral arrangements, for example—don’t



need to last forever. In this case, floral glue, superglue, or hot glue will work just fine.

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

**Use less than you think, 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, then clean it off. If you’re working with unfamiliar materials or cherished keepsakes, experiment with scrap material first.

**Call company information lines.**

Just about all packaging today is printed with a toll-free number to help you get the best results. Company representatives are usually available during regular business hours to answer questions and hear your feedback.

A simple walk down the aisle at your local home improvement or craft store will quickly show you how many glues are available to today’s crafter. If you do a little research, you should be able to find the exact adhesive that you need to make up your project quickly and smoothly, and that will last for years. ♥

Teresa Morgan is marketing manager at *Eclectic Products*, the company that manufactures *E6000*, *Amazing GOOP Adhesives*, and more. Call (800) 349-4667 for advice on the right glue for your project.