

Choosing an Adhesive

Practical skills

Which glue for which material, and what each cannot do.

Common adhesives and their real limits.

Adhesive	For	Not for
PVA wood glue	Wood to wood	Gaps, outdoors, plastics
Polyurethane	Wood, gaps, damp	Anything needing to be clean
Epoxy	Metal, ceramic, structural	Flexible joints
Cyanoacrylate	Small, precise, fast	Load-bearing, gaps
Contact adhesive	Laminates, large areas	Repositioning
Silicone	Sealing, flexible joints	Structural strength
Hot melt	Temporary, craft	Heat, load

Clamping pressure and a clean, close-fitting joint matter more than which glue you choose.