



Polyurethane Adhesives

Polyurethane glue is the relative new kid on the woodworking block. It works differently than standard yellow glue and can offer advantages in certain situations.

First of all, polyurethane glue is waterproof, meaning it can be used for projects that sit outdoors. This type of glue is also flexible to withstand climate extremes well.

Polyurethane glue bonds non-porous materials, as well, such as glass, metal, and plastic. So it's ideal for projects that include these materials.

Unlike yellow glue, which cures when exposed to air, polyurethane glue cures when exposed to moisture. That means you'll have to dampen the wood to ensure enough moisture.

Most of these glues foam up and expand a great deal as they cure, too. This causes a lot of squeeze-out and can push apart joints that aren't clamped properly.



Let squeeze-out from polyurethane glue harden completely before trying to remove it. Then scrape it off using a sharp paint scraper. A carbide scraper works especially well.

DEALING WITH SQUEEZE-OUT FROM Polyurethane Glue

Q: I'd heard that polyurethane glue foams up as it cures, but I was surprised by just how much. Do you have any suggestions for controlling the foam? Also, what's the best way to clean it up?

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A: If you're used to using yellow glue, polyurethane takes some getting used to.

The squeeze-out from yellow glue or polyurethane glue makes a mess. But with standard polyurethane, the mess grows because the glue expands as it foams.

To keep this mess under control, start by using less polyure-

thane glue than you would with yellow glue.

Another possible option is a new "low-foam" polyurethane glue called Bolder Bond (BolderBond.com). To test it, I glued up blocks without clamps using equal amounts of low-foam and a "standard" polyurethane glue. The difference in foaming was significant (*Photos, right*).

With clamps, of course, neither type of polyurethane will spread the joint apart. But using "low-foam" glue should result in less squeeze-out.

To clean up either type of polyurethane glue, wait until the glue dries, then scrape it off (*Photo, left*).

Low-foam Polyurethane Glue



Standard Polyurethane Glue

Gluing without clamps shows the difference between "low-foam" (*top*) and standard polyurethane (*bottom*).