

4 Tips For Protecting Your Plastics When Gluing

The use of glue when fabricating with plastics is a commonplace practice; however, if the proper measures are not taken, you can find yourself with more problems than you bargained for. The following tips can help you get the best results when gluing plastic:

1. **The right glue** – The most common adhesives that can be used for bonding plastics together are Tensol No. 12 and Plastic Weld. Because of the chemical structures that vary between plastic materials, you may find that the optimal adhesive is not the one that you have in your tool box. If you are having difficulty achieving the necessary bond strength that your application requires, EM Plastic carries a number of adhesives that can be used when fabricating plastic components.
2. **Safety first and foremost** – Many high strength adhesives contain extremely potent fumes that can be detrimental to your health if you are exposed to them for extended periods of time. Be sure to wear proper protection when working with such adhesives and allow for proper ventilation in your work area to minimize health risks.
3. **Clamp it down** – Special attention should be given to securing the material with which you are working. If the materials shift during the drying process, the bond of the adhesive can be compromised and can either result in an inferior product or render the materials useless if the adhesive cannot be properly removed.
4. **Be Precise** – When working with adhesive, be sure to prepare the area that you are working on with masking tape. Minimizing the exposed area down to only the areas that will be glued will help to reduce the risk of unintentionally spilling glue where it does not belong. Once the glue has been applied, secure the components with clamps or masking tape to ensure the bond forms properly. Be sure to allow the adhesive time to fully cure before doing any further work.

For more helpful tips, contact your EM Plastic representative.