

Adhesives

HOT MELT ADHESIVES (HMA) ARE OFTEN PROVIDED IN PELLET FORM. AS A THERMOPLASTIC ADHESIVE, HMA SOFTENS WITH INCREASED TEMPERATURE AND CURES AT AMBIENT TEMPERATURES ①. LIQUID SPRAY ADHESIVES CAN BE FORMULATED TO HAVE AN EXTENDED CURING TIME. THEY ARE OFTEN FULLY CURED WITH HIGHER TEMPERATURES AND PRESSURE IN TRADITIONAL OR MEMBRANE PRESSES ②.



Materials have been bonded to each other for centuries. Long before sophisticated chemistry provided moisture curing polyurethane reactive adhesives, the Egyptians created and used casein (yes, from milk) adhesives. For thousands of years, musical instrument makers and artists used casein adhesives, and they are still used today as an excellent and environmentally sound adhesive for woodworking.

Polyvinyl acetate (PVA), also known as “white glue,” is a standard for woodworkers, along with aliphatic resin emulsions, commonly known as “yellow glue,” the latter having a little more initial grip than white glue. Both have excellent bonds and are used extensively in woodworking applications.

Adhesives used in modern panel processing are highly engineered for almost any application. Specific requirements—temperature, pressure, dry time, moisture resistance, bonding of dissimilar materials, emissions, interior or exterior use—are all considered by today’s advanced adhesive suppliers. Engineering a solution for complex requirements is what they do best.

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PVA ADHESIVES ARE TIME-TESTED AND USED OFTEN IN THE ASSEMBLY OF FIVE-PIECE CABINET DOORS ③. ADHESIVES ARE CRITICAL TO DURABILITY AND PERFORMANCE, AS ILLUSTRATED IN THE LVL BEAMS UTILIZED IN THIS RUSTIC MODERN KITCHEN DESIGN ④.

It can be difficult to keep track of all the names and acronyms, including EVA, PVA, PUR, UF, PF, Cyanoacrylate, epoxy, HMA (Hot melt), PA (polyamide) and soy-based adhesives. What's important is to know that your adhesive supplier is willing to provide or engineer a solution that's right for you.

Polyurethane reactive (PUR) adhesives have been used recently as a coating on veneers and printed décor sheets. Top coating with this class of adhesive provides extreme durability. Gloss levels can be varied based on your needs. PUR top coating in most cases renders the product flexible and therefore useful in profile wrapping and other two-dimensional (2D) applications. ■

For more on adhesives producers and providers, see the Master listing index on pages 118-121.



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