

Cyanoacrylate Glue Information

Most people don't realize that CA glues are activated by water, even moisture in the air. You have probably encountered brand names such as Super Glue, Crazy Glue, Loctite or Insta-Bond.

Cyanoacrylate glue is the general term for the quick-bonding super glues used to mend or combine anything from plastics to wood to metal. Unfortunately for some, this list also tends to include human skin.

Cyanoacrylate glue is actually an acrylic resin, not a traditional adhesive in the mold of water-based school glues. Some crafters or automotive repairmen may be familiar with other acrylic resins such as Bondo, the clear liquid used to embed small objects.

Usually an acrylic resin consists of two separate liquids, one for pouring into the mold and another used sparingly as a hardener. In the case of cyanoacrylate glue, the hardener is water.

The main ingredient in super glue is called cyanoacrylate. If cyanoacrylate glue is placed on a perfectly dry surface or certain plastics,

the cyanoacrylate cannot form a bond with the surface. But if there is even the slightest amount of water present, including moisture from the air, the molecules of the glue have a chemical reaction and form into tight chains between the two surfaces being bonded. This Reaction happens within seconds of the water and cyanoacrylate making contact.

Traditional white glues rely on evaporation to form their bonds, but cyanoacrylate glue generates its own heat for faster curing.

Some users of cyanoacrylate glue may become frustrated by the occasional lack of bonding between materials. This may be caused by a lack of moisture or the non-porous nature of the materials. Applying a thin layer of water or even breathing on the material may create enough moisture for a stronger bonding reaction.

Some materials, such as the heat-resistant plastics used in some coffee mugs, cannot be successfully bonded with cyanoacrylate glues. An epoxy resin may be required for repairs not achieved with super glue.

This information was taken from a post on a Yahoo Group with permission from the writer. Dotty McMillan gathered the information while researching her books. Thank you, Dotty, for your investigation. This is very informative and useful information!



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