

Frequently asked questions about Alcolin Fix-All

1. What is a “grab” adhesive?

This is an adhesive designed with a strong wet tack which enables the adhesive to grab or hold the substrates together without the need for clamping or any other fixing method such as screws or nails. Grab adhesives have found an application niche whereby people want to mount objects onto walls quickly, aesthetically, and without the use of drills, nails, screws and hammers.

2. What is the difference between a “grab” adhesive and a sealant?

The primary function of a grab adhesive is to bond substrates together while the primary purpose of a sealant is not to bond but to seal a joint or space against movement of liquid, gases or solid material. Sealants are generally required to have good flexibility. Many sealants can act as good adhesives, but don't have the wet tack required specifically of a grab adhesive. Alcolin Fix-All is classified as a grab adhesive.

3. What adhesive can I use to glue expanded polystyrene foam to itself?

The adhesive providing the best bond to expanded polystyrene is Alcolin Waterproof Glue.

Where a high wet tack / grab is required, there are a number of grab adhesives that are also excellent for the job: Alcolin Fix-All, Alcolin Polyurethane Adhesive & Sealant, Alcolin MS37 1000 Uses and Evostik Sticks Like. Silicone sealants are also good for the job.

Bostik Mount It is a waterbased grab adhesive that is suitable for the job. Acrylic Sealant and Alcolin Cornice adhesive are also suitable. These products are all waterbased and for this reason they perform best only when gluing small parts of EPS to itself or when bonding EPS to a porous surface.

4. Is Alcolin Fixall suitable for expanded polystyrene.

Yes, it contains non aggressive solvents that will not attack expanded polystyrene.

5. I'm looking for a 'No More Nails' adhesive?

Use Alcolin Fix All, Bostik Mount It or Evo-Stik Gripfill Adhesive. Alcolin Fix All and the Evo-Stik Gripfill adhesives are solvent based while Bostik Mount It is water based.

6. I want to put skirting boards onto the walls but I do not want to use nails.

Use Bostik Mount It, Evo-Stik Gripfill adhesive, Evo-Stik Sticks Like, Alcolin Fix All or Alcolin Polyurethane Adhesive and Sealant.

7. How do I clean up Alcolin Fixall?

A cloth soaked in acetone, toluene, alcohol or mineral spirits should do the job prior to drying. Once dried, scraping or sanding works well, alternatively, use a solvent based paint stripper. It is best to clean the glue before it dries.

8. What is the best adhesive to glue up a mirror?

Bostik Mirror is the best adhesive to use if gluing the mirror directly to a ceramic, cement or brick surface. Bostik Mirror is neutral curing and will not de-silver the mirror over time. Bostik Build is another neutral curing silicone that will also work well for this application. Do not use acid curing silicones as the acid that is released during the curing process will de-silver the mirror. Alcolin MS37 1000 Uses and Evo-Stik Sticks Like are also ideal for mounting mirrors. If gluing the mirror to surfaces such as supawood or melamine, Alcolin Fix All or Alcolin Polyurethane adhesive and sealant would be more suitable.

When gluing mirrors, apply the adhesive in vertical lines with a space of approximately 2-3cm between each line. Do not use a perimeter glue line as this will prevent the glue from drying.

9. Can I use Alcolin Fix-All to bond two non-porous surfaces together?

No. The product requires evaporation of solvent to dry, so at least one surface must be porous.

10. How do I clean up Alcolin Fixall?

A cloth soaked in acetone, toluene, alcohol or mineral spirits should do the job prior to drying. Once dried, scraping or sanding works well, alternatively, use a solvent based paint stripper. It is best to clean the glue before it dries.

11. When using Alcolin Fix-All, do I need to support or clamp the two surfaces together?

Clamping is not necessary, unless the material to be bonded is very heavy, it will require additional support to hold them in place until the adhesive dries completely.

12. We need an adhesive to stick stair nosing, what is the best product to use?

At the high performance end, Alcolin MS37 1000 Uses, Alcolin Polyurethane adhesive and sealant, Evo-stik Sticks Like are all excellent choices, having a strong bond to cement, wood – coated or uncoated, ceramic and metal. They bond dissimilar substrates, are waterproof and have a long performance life. They are also ideal for stair treads. Evo-stik Gripfill and Alcolin Fix-All are solvent based grab adhesives that are also suitable for the task.

13. How do I use Alcolin Fix-All?

For *mounting and gluing up of panels* and apply the product to one of the surfaces in 5mm wide, parallel, short and non-continuous vertical beads down the length of the board. This will allow air flow through the joint. The vertical beads should be spaced at approx. 20cm apart across the width of the panel when gluing standard light panels. For beads spaced at more than 20cm, a perimeter bead should be applied. For heavy boards, space beads 10cm apart, and for flexible boards, space beads at 5cm apart. After application of adhesive, press the panel firmly onto the surface slightly above its required position and applying pressure, slide into place in order to break any surface skin. Press firmly to ensure complete glue transfer to the other surface, using a soft mallet if necessary. Any adjustment must be made within 5 minutes of placing. For heavier articles, after pressing the panel to the wall, break the bond by pulling away immediately, ensure that good glue transfer has occurred. Wait approx. 1 minute

prior to rejoining the two surfaces and pressing firmly together. It is advisable to use temporary mechanical support (e.g. panel pins, masonry nails, masking tape, chocks, etc) until final bond strength is reached (24 hours for porous surfaces and 48 hours when working with non porous surfaces or extremely heavy panels).

For *stair nosings, window frames, etc* and apply a continuous bead (usually 5 - 6mm in diameter) to the surface being bonded. Position on the substrate, if possible by sliding into place, and apply an even pressure overall. If the object is to be applied to a vertical surface, temporary mechanical support (e.g. panel pins, masonry nails, masking tape, etc) may be required. Allow to dry overnight prior to any further operation e.g. fixing boards to battens, etc.

For *impervious materials (bonding of two non porous surfaces)* apply the adhesive as above. Press the surfaces firmly together and pull apart immediately, and ensure that good adhesive transfer has occurred. Wait for a maximum of 5 minutes and re-bond the two materials pressing firmly together.

14. I need glue for expanded polystyrene panels in cold rooms.

Alcolin MS 37 1000 Uses, Evo-Stik Sticks Like and Alcolin Polyurethane adhesive and sealant and Bostik Build contain no aggressive solvents and will not attack expanded polystyrene. These are all perfect for this application and will bond all types of panels in a cold room, as it remains flexible down to - 40°C.

Acid curing silicone sealants release acetic acid on curing which may affect the metal surface to which the EPS will be bonded, and are therefore not suitable.

15. I need a universal adhesive to stick various components in a caravan.

Alcolin MS37 1000 Uses, Evo-Stik Sticks like or Alcolin Polyurethane adhesive and sealant bond strongly to dissimilar substrates such as found in caravan construction e.g. wood, aluminium, glass, fibreglass and panels. These grab adhesives are flexible to ensure shock absorbency and movement against vibrations without delamination.

16. Can I paint over Alcolin Fix-All?

Yes you can.

17. How soon after I applied Alcolin Fix-All can it be over painted?

Water-based paints can be applied almost immediately and other paints must be applied when fully cured, usually about 1 to 2 days, depending on bead diameter.

18. Does Alcolin Fix-All bond to plastics?

Alcolin Fixall bonds to hard PVC, polycarbonates, fibreglass, ABS, and Perspex (methacrylates). As Alcolin Fix-All contains solvent, it is advisable to check that the solvents do not affect the plastic in anyway prior to bonding. It does not bond to some plastics like polyethylene, polypropylene and Teflon.

19. I need a strong adhesive/sealant to adhere metal to metal on truck bodies

Alcolin Polyurethane adhesive and sealant, Alcolin MS37 1000 Uses and Evo-Stik Sticks like are excellent grab adhesives with very good vibration resistance. Since they are acid free they will not corrode metals.

20. I am looking for an external wall cladding adhesive

Alcolin MS37 1000 Uses, Alcolin Fix All, Alcolin Polyurethane adhesive and sealant, Evo-Stik Gripfill, and Evo-Stik Sticks Like is suitable for all types of external cladding with natural stone, simulated stone and other cladding panels.

21. Can Alcolin Fix-All be used for applications permanently under water?

No, although the product is waterproof it is not suitable for applications permanently under water.

22. Can Alcolin Fix-All be used to fit mirrors onto walls?

Yes. It is acid free so will not attack mirror backing. Apply adhesive in vertical lines with a space of approximately 2-3cm between each line. Do not use a perimeter glue line, as this will prevent the glue from drying. For very large mirrors we recommend the use of additional mechanical support.

