

Fiberglass Basic Safety, Tips, and Tricks – US Fiberglass Supply 352-377-4146

Safety:

- READ THE SAFETY DATA SHEET (SDS)
- Highlights: Avoid skin & eye contact with Resin & Catalyst; work in a well-ventilated area.
- Wash RESIN off with ACETONE
- Wash CATALYST off with WATER
- ACETONE is VERY FLAMMABLE, avoid smoking, open flames and sparks (yes electric motors count)
- As a safer alternative to ACETONE you may consider denatured alcohol.

Mix Tips:

- Materials have a catalyst chart on the side, remember low % for hot days, high % for cold
- A temperature/volume chart is available, remember you can tweak amount of catalyst to adjust cure speed, but keep it in the (1-3% by volume range generally).
- Measure Catalyst in CC or Oz by volume
- Graduate squeeze bottles in ½ and ¼ increments with a sharpie to make measuring simpler
- We use a CC syringe for accurate measurements.
- For larger projects a CC Measuring squeeze bottle is available
- Split tongue depressors lengthwise to use as mixing sticks in smaller cups
- **WAX (Sanding Aid) 3-5%**

Lamination Tips:

- Mix Small Batches and arrange your work & workspace in a clear logical fashion.
- Use a rag and squeeze bottle of acetone to clean your hands if you get resin on them. This will help keep your tools and workspace clean.
- Get resin out of the mixing container as fast as possible, spread it on your part and let it start soaking in for example. Resin in cups/buckets will kick much faster than resin spread out because of the exothermic nature of the resin reaction.
- “Hot Coat” plywood and foam before attempting to put a glass layer on, plywood and foam will wick away resin from your laminate and the joint will be poor otherwise.
- For plywood use only Fir, no pine (pine resin won’t stick to fiberglass resin) or pressure treated (too much moisture)
- DO NOT thin gelcoats (ex: for spraying) with ACETONE, use Duratec Clear Additive or Styrene liquid.

Material Storage:

- Cool dry place, out of the sun, if possible, for resin & catalyst
- Glass must stay dry, wet spots in fiberglass are very bad for the resin and may cause an incomplete cure.

Cleanup:

- **Acetone** for cleanup, use a ketchup (squeeze) bottle and a rag, you’ll go through much less acetone
- Always keep Acetone covered in a bottle/bucket with a tight fitting lid.
- Tools can be swished in an acetone bucket to clean off resin.
- Excess Resin can be mixed with Catalyst and cured as a solid block of plastic, excess catalyst can be destroyed by mixing with water. If in doubt contact your local HAZ-MAT disposal authority.