

TKHHB Briefing Note 1

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(replaces all previous versions)



First Aid Information for Adhesive Bonds made with Superglues

Provided by the Technical Commission for Household, Hobby and Office Adhesives (TKHHB) of the German Adhesives Association (Industrieverband Klebstoffe e.V.), Düsseldorf

Cyanoacrylate adhesives are very fast-setting, strong adhesive products that are marketed as **superglue (or quick glue, super glue, power glue, etc.)**.

Cyanoacrylate adhesives harden very quickly with moisture (such as humidity, skin moisture, sweat, tears, saliva).

Cyanoacrylate adhesives bond skin and eyelids together within seconds.

Cyanoacrylate adhesives should be kept out of the reach of children. Experience shows that if accidents are managed properly, **surgical treatment is usually unnecessary** if the following instructions and measures are followed.

Even without treatment, cyanoacrylate adhesives detach themselves from skin, eyes, or mouth **over time** due to exposure to skin moisture/sweat, tears, or saliva.

Accidental skin bonding

Skin with skin

stuck-together skin surfaces



Remove superglue with vegetable oil (e.g. sunflower oil, corn oil, rapeseed oil.)

Do not panic and don't try to tear apart the affected skin. This could damage your skin.

Apply vegetable oil liberally to the adhesive area and the surrounding skin and allow it to soak in from the edges for enough time. Then, starting at the edges, carefully peel the adhesive away from the skin (repeat several times if necessary).

Clean the area with soap and water after the adhesive has been removed.



Solvents such as acetone are not effective on the skin and should not be used on the body.



Remove superglue with soap and water.

If you do not have any vegetable oil on hand, first soak the affected area of skin in warm soapy water for enough time. Then, gently move the skin sections against each other to separate them.

Afterwards, you should protect your skin from dryness with lotion.



Never peel the adhesive off the skin, as skin particles may also be removed.

On scalp / hair



Wash your head/hair and then apply plenty of skin protection oil to the affected area(s) and leave it overnight (repeat several times if necessary).

Over time, the adhesive will be shed from the scalp.

Skin with other materials

See measures "Skin with skin."

Accidental eye bonding



Never try to force the eye open. Never use solvents, such as acetone, on the eye.



Immediately rinse thoroughly with warm water and cover the eye with a moist compress.



If you experience adhesions around the eye, you should see an ophthalmologist or visit an eye clinic as soon as possible.

If a doctor is unavailable, the eye will probably reopen on its own within 1 to 4 days without further intervention.

However, a doctor must be consulted in any case.

Under medical supervision, the detachment process can be significantly shortened with the use of medicated rinsing solutions.

The debonding of eyelashes can be accelerated by using oils that are compatible with the eyes and mucous membranes.

Such procedures on the eye and mucous membranes should only be performed by qualified medical personnel!

Mouth



If the lips are accidentally stuck together, rinse with plenty of warm water from the outside and press against them with saliva from the inside of the mouth to achieve maximum moistening.

The adhesive can usually be loosened by moving your lips or mouth. Any remaining adhesive can be removed with water and a moisturizing skin protectant ointment or oil.



Never try to forcibly open lips that are stuck together.

It is very unlikely that cyanoacrylate adhesives will be swallowed, as the adhesive hardens immediately and can adhere to the mouth (white coating/agglomerates).

Treatment is usually unnecessary!

Saliva will dissolve the adhesive from the oral mucosa within ½ to 2 days. If larger agglomerates have formed in the mouth, the affected person should be positioned so that these cannot be swallowed when they dissolve. It is essential to ensure that the airway remains clear.

Burns

Cyanoacrylate adhesives release heat as they cure. In rare cases, with large drops, the temperature increase can be sufficient to cause a burn.

For burns caused by cyanoacrylate adhesives, follow the generally accepted treatment guidelines. If necessary, carefully remove the adhesive and/or the attached object (e.g., work glove) before treatment (see page 2).

Surgical treatment



Accidentally stuck-together skin should never be surgically separated.



The information and measures listed in this leaflet should be applied.

Even without treatment, cyanoacrylate adhesives detach themselves from skin, eyes or mouth over time due to exposure to skin moisture/sweat, tears or saliva.