

Removing Synthetic Resin

Synthetic resin, a versatile material

Synthetic resin is a versatile, modern adhesive used, for example, in boat building, household applications, and model making. When combined with glass fiber, carbon fiber, and aramid fiber in the construction of modern gliders—and increasingly in large passenger aircraft as well—it is used as a fiber-reinforced composite.

Epoxy resin is also used to produce stone carpets, as a casting resin for manufacturing components through casting processes, for industrial flooring, concrete coatings, and concrete repairs. Epoxy resin is also used for corrosion protection (steel structures), in the rehabilitation of pipes (such as those in underfloor heating systems), and for sealing terrariums, as it is non-toxic once cured.

But how do you remove it?

During application, fresh splatters or uncured residue can be removed with acetone and a cleaning cloth.

Cured synthetic resins are best removed mechanically, by sanding with sandpaper or using a power sander.

It is essential to monitor the heat generated depending on the substrate to prevent damage to the material and the potential fire hazard. When working on plastic substrates, special caution is required during sanding; often, only roughening the surface is possible before reapplying synthetic resin.

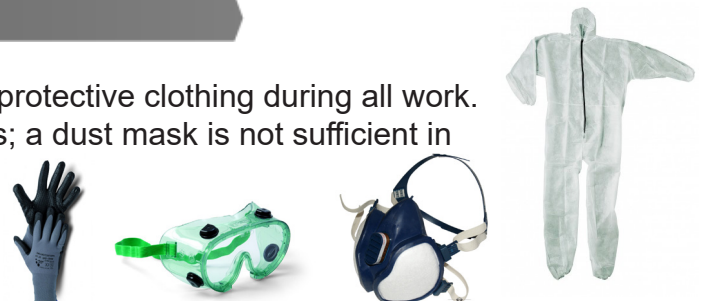
If synthetic resin has seeped into joints, small indentations, or porous surfaces such as wood, removal is no longer possible.



If the substrate is heat-resistant (e.g., steel), it can be heated with a hot-air gun so that the resin, which becomes gel-like, can then be laboriously removed with a putty knife. Here, too, special attention must be paid to heat build-up and the potential fire hazard.

PROTECT YOURSELF!

Wear gloves, safety goggles, a respirator, and protective clothing during all work. Heating (including grinding) can produce fumes; a dust mask is not sufficient in this case. Uncured residues are classified as hazardous waste.



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