

Quick Reference Chart

Bookbinding Adhesives

TYPE	BASE	FORM	BENEFITS	DISADVANTAGES	BEST USES
ANIMAL	Connective tissues	whole, shredded, liquid	Dries clear, strong, reactivate with water, low viscosity	Not good in humidity, can be expensive	Book repair (conservation)
ANIMAL	Animal skin	granules, cake, powder, flake, liquid, recipe	Dries clear, strong, fast drying, re-workable, stays in place	Not waterproof, unpleasant odor, long process to create	All binding types
ANIMAL	Connective tissues, bone	granules, sheets	Dries translucent, strong, low viscosity	Brittle, not good in humidity	Book repair (conservation)
PLANT	Plant fiber	powder	Dries clear, unaffected by high temperatures, very flexible	Not very strong, not good in humidity	Archival works and as a mix in for PVA to add drying time
PLANT	Wheat	powder, recipe	Dries clear, strong, flexible, versatile, inexpensive	Takes some effort to create, must be careful of gluten density, can only store for 2-4 days	All binding types, book repair (restoration) and backing cloth
PLANT	Cold Wheat Paste	powder	Easy to make, strong, versatile, inexpensive	Can only store for 2-4 days	All binding types, book repair (restoration) and backing cloth
SYNTHETIC	Polymers	liquid	Dries clear, cheap, flexible, fast drying, easy to use	Only works on porous materials, needs pressure to adhere, not waterproof, can creep	All binding types
SYNTHETIC	Polymers	liquid	Dries clear, flexible, fast drying, easy to use	<i>same as above</i> , more expensive	All binding types
SYNTHETIC	Polymers	liquid	Exactly like Jade 403, but with extended drying time	<i>same as above</i> , more expensive	All binding types, especially boxes
SYNTHETIC	Polymers	liquid	Exactly like Jade 403, but with significantly less odor	<i>same as above</i> , more expensive	All binding types

