

## **First aid**

Adhesives are technical chemical products. They can cause physical harm if used in the wrong way or abused. On this page you will find sources for help in the event of an accident involving glue, e.g. if it has been swallowed. The sources listed know the composition of our products and can give medical information and/or recommend the action to take.

### **Important points:**

- Don't panic – keep calm.
- Safety is more important than speed.
- Don't allow children to get excited, and don't scold them.
- Don't use force or make them do any.

### **In the event of an accident in which glue has been swallowed:**

- Give the victim tea, water, or fruit juice to drink.  
Not milk!
- Do not make the victim vomit.
- Do not give the victim salt water.

**Medical assistance is available by phone from the Poisons Centre DAY and NIGHT:**

**London: (+44) 20 76 35 91 91**

**Birmingham: (+44) 12 15 07 55 88**

### **What does this emergency call centre have to know?**

- Who? A child, an adult, or an animal?
- How old is the victim?
- What has been swallowed or glued together?
- Which kind of glue? Brand name, product description?
- When did it happen?
- How much has been swallowed?
- How was it swallowed?
- Drunk/eaten/skin contact?
- How is the victim doing?
- What has been tried so far?
- Who is this calling?
- Please give a number to phone back.
- Where did it happen?

### **If skin parts are stuck together with instant adhesive:**

- Don't panic!
- Don't force the skin parts apart or separate them surgically.
- Read the information sheet published by the Adhesives Industrial Association.

# **Information sheet**

## **Information on first aid and treatment of accidents**

involving cyano-acrylate adhesives  
(instant adhesives)

## Introduction

**Cyano-acrylate adhesives** are very rapid bonding, very adhesive products, marketed as **instant adhesives (brand names Schnellkleber, Super Kleber, Super Glue, Power Glue, Magic Glue, NASA-Kleber, etc)**.

**Cyano-acrylate adhesives** set very quickly in the presence of moisture (in the air, on the skin, perspiration, sebum, tears, saliva). They are capable of bonding human tissue, including skin and eyes, in seconds.

Experience has shown that dealing with accidents properly usually makes **surgical treatment unnecessary**, as long as the following procedures and instructions are observed.

Even if nothing is done, cyano-acrylate adhesives automatically lose their adhesiveness to skin, eyes and mouth in due course under the effect of moisture on the skin, perspiration, tears or saliva.

## Skin stuck together

### Skin on skin

Start by softening stuck areas of skin in warm, soapy water or in a 1% solution of bicarbonate of soda, then carefully slide a pair of tweezers, a spatula, cotton-wool stick or pencil between the stuck areas and separate them by using small, gentle movements. Any remnants of adhesive

can be removed from the skin with soap and water and/or a greasy skincare ointment or oil.

Drops of acetone can be used to release **small areas of stuck skin**. Apply the acetone carefully to the edges of the stuck area to dissolve the adhesive (repeat as necessary).

Acetone should not be used over large areas; it should not be used near the eyes, mucous membranes, or on broken skin.

Once the adhesive has been removed, clean the skin with plain water and apply a greasy skincare ointment or oil.

Never rip the adhesive off the skin, as particles of skin may be removed as well.

### **On the scalp, in the hair**

Wash the head/hair and apply a generous quantity of skincare oil to the affected area(s); leave on for some time (overnight, for instance). Repeat as necessary.

The adhesive will wear off the scalp in due course.

### **Skin to other materials**

See instructions for treating "skin on skin".

## Eyes

Should the eyes become stuck an immediate thorough rinsing with (warm) water is essential to minimise the eye's reactions.

Never attempt to force open eyes that have become stuck.

### **Eyelid stuck to eyelid, eyeball or eyelashes**

Rinse thoroughly with warm water immediately and cover with a moist gauze compress, eye compress or swab.

If necessary, moisten the compress or swab repeatedly.

The eye will usually open without any further treatment after between one and four days.

There is unlikely to be any lasting damage.

If the eye should become stuck, consult the local emergency hospital or an ophthalmologist.

### **Adhesive on the eyeball**

No treatment is normally required.

In the eye, cyano-acrylate adhesives bond with the protein layer of the eye and loosen after a variable time, normally one or two days.

Until the adhesive loosens and the remnants have been removed, the eye will produce more tears than usual.

Double vision can also occur, in conjunction with the increased flow of tears.

These are normal reactions. The adhesive normally loosens within one or two days, except in particularly severe cases.

*Please note – to avoid the risk of inhaling, the conscious person should lie with the head and shoulders in as upright a position as possible.*

## Mouth

Should the **lips** become stuck together accidentally, they should be rinsed with plenty of warm water from the outside and saliva should be pressed up against the area on the inside of the mouth to maintain maximum contact with moisture.

Moving the lips and mouth usually loosens the adhesive hold.

Any remnants of adhesive can be removed using water and a greasy skincare ointment or oil.

Never attempt to force open lips that have been stuck together.

It is very unlikely that cyano-acrylate adhesives would be **swallowed**, as the adhesive sets instantly and can stick to the mouth, producing a white-coloured coating or agglomerate.

No treatment is normally necessary.

Saliva removes the adhesive from the inside of the mouth usually within half a day and two days. Should a large quantity of agglomerate form in the mouth, the patient should be positioned in such a way that it cannot be swallowed once it comes

loose. Make sure that the windpipe is not obstructed.

## **Burns**

Cyano-acrylate adhesives release heat as they set. Very occasionally the quantity of adhesive used may be sufficient to increase the surrounding temperature enough to cause a burn.

Burns caused by cyano-acrylate adhesives should be treated in the same way as any other burns. Before treating the burn, the adhesive and/or the article stuck on (a work glove, for example) should be carefully removed, if possible (see page 2).

## **Surgical treatment**

Skin stuck together accidentally should never be separated surgically.

Even if nothing is done, cyano-acrylate adhesives come off skin, eyes or mouth of their own accord in due course under the effect of moisture in the skin, perspiration, tears or saliva.

The notes and information in this information sheet correspond to the best of our knowledge to the most up-to-date technology. They are given for information and are not compulsory; no liability claims may be entertained in their respect.