

HOW TO REMOVE WOOD GLUE

Compiled and edited by Gordon Patnude [GPP]

I really needed an answer which worked for me. I thought I would share my findings for loosening, softening, releasing, and disassembling glued pieces of wood. While I have not used all of these different approaches, I have been successful with #2 (below), disassembling some large drawers that were salvaged from a kitchen renovation. The resulting pieces were re-used to make smaller drawers to fit a cabinet in my workshop.

*** -- Disclaimer --**

Some of the chemicals named below are corrosive and have fumes. Please ensure you use respirators, gloves, and glasses when applicable. Always work in a well ventilated area. Please be safe!! I will not be responsible for your use of this information or the materials identified herein.

1. Ammonia – Using the same process as vinegar (without the heat) you can dissolve wood glue with the exception of you will *blot or dab* with the cloth and not wipe. Please note - ammonia is corrosive. [It smells really bad, too!! GPP]

2. White Vinegar – It is an excellent way to dissolve wood glue. Non-diluted is the best way of using vinegar. The key to it dissolving glue is the acidity of the vinegar. Using a cloth apply to the glue on your project. You don't need put a lot on and it works. If the glue is really relentless you can heat up the vinegar on the stove and reapply with a cloth. The glue will eventually release. *[I've used this approach and it works pretty well, but there is still some scraping to get it all. I used a spray bottle. GPP]*

3. De-Glue Goo® – Created by Larry McNeil, De-Glue Goo is an excellent choice for removing wood glue. Use a heavy coat on the glue on the wood sign and allow 15 to 30 minutes. Then clean off the excess. This is very clean and easy product to use. De-Glue-Goo is the only non-toxic gel that will dissolve hide glue, white and yellow glues. Gets hardened glue out of your spline grooves quickly and easily. We guarantee that De-Glue Goo will dramatically cut your spline groove cleaning time. This can be a time saver!!

4. Rubbing Alcohol – Most folks have rubbing alcohol around the house. It is an inexpensive products and works very well. Using a cloth put some alcohol on the cloth and slowly rub back and forth until you see the glue start to dissolve. If the glue is relentless place cloth with rubbing alcohol on the glue and let sit for a couple of minutes. It may take a few times to release and loosen the glue but it will work well.

5. Hair Dryer And Water – This is by far the easiest of the techniques. Place towels around the glue on the wood sign and using a sprayer add to the wood glue. Additionally you can use a wet cloth with water that is not dripping. Place on the wood glue. Using a hair dryer or steam-machine, direct the heat from the hair dryer while spraying a little as you go. You should be able to get the wood glue to come loose.

[This one may take more time than other methods. GPP]

6. Denatured Alcohol – Also known as Methylated Spirits is ethanol with additives. It is very poisonous and smells really bad. However, it works very well on releasing wood glue. The best way to apply is to use a small bottle with a small opening top. You will want to use very little but highly directed to where the glue is. Allow to sit for 5 minutes and start to wiggle the wood glue joint. Continue to apply as you wiggle the joint so you don't crack the wood.

7. Acetone – [Also known as Propanone or Nail Polish remover] is colorless and very flammable. It also has a lot of fumes which will require you to use a respirator and gloves. If you use Acetone on your wood sign glue joints, ensure you *use prior to adding stain or finish sealer* as it will damage the finish. Using a cloth apply to the glue joint by *dabbing or blotting*. Let sit for 1 minute and watch the glue dissolve, release and loosen.

8. Goo Gone® - The surface-safe formula removes the goo without harming your surface. Formulated with citrus cleaning agents and a pleasant citrus scent.

9. Goo Gone Pro Power -

Pretest on an inconspicuous area. Apply **Goo Gone Pro Power** to the glue. Let the formula sit for 5-10 minutes as the Goo Gone seeps into the glue. Use steel wool or a putty knife to remove the wood glue. Wash the area with soap and warm water. Repeat steps as needed.

10. How do you soften hardened wood glue? If it's yellow or white glue, **soaking in white vinegar for a while softens it up pretty quickly.** If it is **hide glue**, then a little warm water will do the trick. If it's a polyurethane based glue like "**Gorilla**" glue, then nothing will soften it.

11. How do you **unglue Titebond®** wood glue? The key to the disassembly of glue joints is weakening the bond. **For Titebond Original, Titebond II and Titebond III, raising the glue joint temperature with a heat gun or a blow dryer will reduce the glue's strength.** Steam from an iron may also work.

12. To remove glue from badly bonded objects, stained surfaces and unwanted glue spillages, try **Loctite® Glue Remover.** It's so versatile you can even use it on ink and marker pen stains, sticky labels *and to separate accidentally bonded fingers.*

13. <https://resin-expert.com/en/guide/how-to-remove-wood-glue> *This article is one I have not read thoroughly, but found while browsing the internet and editing the collection of tips that appear above. It is quite lengthy and appears to cover just about any possible glue-removal problem you might encounter. I recommend reading!!*

Among the comments near the start of this web site, I found this list of possible cleaning solvents. The BRAKE CLEANER was not mentioned in any other articles. [GPP]

Brake Cleaner	Ammonia	Warm soapy water
Acetone	Methylated spirits	Lemon and salt
Vinegar	Special glue removers	