

Thank you for trying our UV cure epoxy

We have included below the most common Questions and Answers that we have received over the years and find that these answer about 95% of use questions.

Please be aware that the epoxy is light sensitive and our white bottles provides only a little UV protection. You should store it in a dark place when not in use, if left in an area lit by sunlight or florescent lights for a long period of time it may gel or harden in the bottle. The white bottles provide some UV protection.

To start doming you need a flat very level surface. A piece of glass is recommended. It's important to clean the item you are doming as oils and other chemicals may inhibit a full cure, I recommend wiping with isopropyl alcohol before doming. Place the item to be domed on the surface and apply the epoxy starting around the border. Always start with less epoxy than you think you need as it will fill in as it settles.

When the item is fully coated use a small torch to remove any air bubbles in the epoxy, a quick swipe keeping the flame a few inches away should do the trick. Place the domed item under your UV light, turn it on and wait 20 minutes (time may vary depending on the strength of your light).

Always store the epoxy bottle upright in a dark area between 40f to 65f, For any cleanup needs use isopropyl alcohol.

For more tips and information visit EpoxyJewelry.com. On the web site there are supplies, tips and videos

Q&A

Q: Can I use standard ink jet printers to make domed labels?

A: The inks and paper tend to have chemical reactions with the epoxy preventing it from curing. However we have a clear adhesive backed vinyl that can be applied to prints to allow them to be domed as well as inkseal liquid sealer.

Q: Can I use a color laser printer to make domed items?

A: No, please see the question above on how to make them usable

Q: My epoxy hardened on top but not the bottom. I can slide it off and am left with a sticky layer. What's wrong?

A: Your item had some sort of chemical on the surface that prevented the epoxy from hardening. This happens when the item being domed contains a chemical that prevents the epoxy from curing. Try first to clean the surface with isopropyl alcohol and if need be see the section below on curing issues.

Q: My item did not cure completely, the top is sticky. Why?

A: There are 3 possible reasons for this. The first reason is epoxy contamination. Possibly the item was printed with an ink jet printer. Second, the item was either not in the curing zone of the UV oven or was not left long enough in the UV light. Last, be sure the epoxy is not out of date.

Q: Is it possible to over cure the epoxy? What happens if I leave it under the light too long?

A: No, you cannot over cure the epoxy and leaving it under the light too long will have no ill effects.

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Q: My epoxy is out of date but it seems to be working. Is it OK to keep using it?

A: Yes, properly stored epoxy may function perfectly well after the use by date. If it's still working keep using it.

Q: How can I tell if I my epoxy is too old and should be replaced?

A: Normally it will darken or become thicker.

Q: Can the epoxy be used for outdoor items?

A: The epoxy can start to yellow if used outdoors 7/24. Because of this we do not recommend it for use on cars or other outdoor items. It is OK to use for items that will get limited exposure outdoors. As an example we have domed name tags that are worn by employees at a restaurant that has outdoor seating in sunny California. They have had their badges going on 5 years and they still look great, these are outdoors at least a few hours a day 5 days a week.

Q: is the epoxy scratch proof?

A: nothing is scratch proof, however, our epoxy is extremely scratch resistant. It can be used on key chains with no problem.

Steps to find the culprit of UV epoxy not curing properly

If you have problems with our UV epoxy not fully curing there are a few steps to find the cause.

Almost all curing issues are caused by contamination of the epoxy. This can be something on the surface of the item it's being used on, in the dispensing bottle and sometimes even in the air.

First step is always to eliminate the item it's being used on by putting a few drops onto an inert surface such as a plastic spoon, clean coin or even plastic from packaging or water bottle. Cure the epoxy on the inert surface, if it cures properly then the issue is with the item you are using it on.

If the surface is found to be the culprit with the above test then you can try cleaning the surface with isopropyl alcohol to see if that helps. Remember that oil from your skin, lotion or makeup may also be an issue so it's important not to touch the surface with your hands once cleaned.

If you use Polymer Clay you must be sure the piece is fully baked and cleaned with isopropyl alcohol before adding the epoxy.

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Airborne contamination is becoming more of an issue as people use the products at home. Air fresheners, fumes from cleaning products and even perfumes and skin care products can cause issues if in abundance.

To test for environmental contamination you can try dispensing and curing the epoxy in a different room or even better outside on a patio or in a garage.

If the first inert surface test failed then try curing in another room or even outside if possible. Also it may be that you are using the wrong wavelength of UV light (our epoxy requires light that is 365nm wavelength 18w minimum) or the UV lamps may be getting old and weak.

If you are using a nail dryer be sure it's at least 36w and uses the fluorescent style UV lights and NOT LED. The LED nail dryers are the wrong frequency of UV light for our product.

One final test is to cure some epoxy out in direct sunlight, this can take about an hour but will confirm that it is curing properly.

All batches of our UV epoxy are tested twice before bottling and in 27 years we have not had a bad batch, but it's not impossible so if all the above tests fail please contact us to see if there is a known issue with your batch.

Unfortunately there are just too many variables for us to cover every possible cause in this sheet but after many years we feel these instructions will help find the problem with 99% of curing problems.

If this does not help, please contact us with an exact account of your use including all materials used and your full procedure and we will try to solve the issue.

Thank You.

UltraDome.com & EpoxyJewelry.com