



# RESIN RESOURCE GUIDE

## *FAQ's & Troubleshooting*

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## RESIN BASICS /TROUBLESHOOTING

There are many brands and types of resin the market, each offering their own benefits. The type purchased (Polyester, Epoxy, Polyurethane) will determine the cure time (time it takes to become solid) and working time (mixing and pouring).

It is important to use a resin that is made specifically for your needs, such as an **epoxy resin**, used for all the projects throughout this book. You will also want one that has low odour and zero VOC's (Volatile Organic Compound). Many brands of resin on the market, such as polyurethane, are intended for industrial use, (e.g. fibreglass boats), are toxic, have strong chemical smells and yellow quickly. Make sure your research before you buy.

For your safety, always work in a well-ventilated area, wear gloves and if necessary, and a certified approved mask against airborne organic vapours.

Resins are made up of a 2-part epoxy system, (1-part Resin base and 1-part Hardener) Depending on the brand, you will either mix and measure by weight or by volume.

### NOTE:

1. You may experience one bottle of your resin kit is yellow or yellows slightly once opened. This happens automatically over time and when the hardener is exposed to air. The chemical reaction causes it to yellow. This is normal and doesn't mean your resin is bad. However, you should avoid using resin that has been sitting unused for more than 12 months as resin does have a shelf life.
2. All resins will yellow over time however todays science and technology have allowed brands to improve and delay this process by adding UV protection and HALS (Hindered Amine Light Stabilizers) to their products. HALS help to interrupt the chemical interaction and block the yellowing process.

NOTE: ALL artwork is prone to fading when hung in direct sunlight, regardless of medium used. Protect and hang your art away from harmful rays.

There is a slight learning curve with resin which everyone experiences no matter the type of resin used. The most commonly asked questions, issues, remedies and preventative steps are outlined here to help you.

ISSUE	CAUSES	REMEDY
Resin is not curing. Still sticky/goopy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Improper measuring/mixing</li><li>- Too much colorant added (resin tint/alcohol ink)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Read and follow instructions accurately.</li><li>- Do not add more than 10% colourant/tint to resin mixture.</li><li>- Scrap off uncured resin. Wipe surface and recoat.</li></ul>
Tiny bubbles cured in resin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Poured too thick a layer</li><li>- Didn't torch to release bubbles</li><li>- Didn't seal artwork prior to resin</li><li>- Mixed resin to quickly</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Do not pour more than 1/8" layers</li><li>- Use a butane torch to help to eliminate bubbles</li><li>- Seal artwork first, especially raw wood</li></ul>

Tiny bubbles cured in resin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poured too thick a layer</li> <li>- Didn't torch to release bubbles</li> <li>- Didn't seal artwork prior to resin</li> <li>- Mixed resin too quickly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do not pour more than 1/8" layers</li> <li>- Use a butane torch to help to eliminate bubbles</li> <li>- Seal artwork first, especially raw wood</li> <li>- Slowly mix resin</li> </ul>
Dents/dimples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fluctuating temperatures</li> <li>- Over torching</li> <li>- Dust particles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work in a consistent temperature of 71 - 75F</li> <li>- Do not hold or torch repeatedly over the same area of the resin. Move quickly and evenly across the surface</li> <li>- Cover artwork with a container while curing</li> </ul>
Bare spots/repelled from sides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The surface area was oily</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Handle artwork with gloves to avoid hands natural oils from transferring onto the sides and surface</li> <li>- Sand with medium grit paper and recoat</li> </ul>
Resin appears cloudy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water in resin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Even a few drops of water that make it into resin can cloud it. Keep away from water</li> </ul>
Streaking/lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Manipulating past working time</li> <li>- Resin has begun to cure while still spreading</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pour mixture out of container all at once</li> <li>- Do not continue to scrap excess onto surface</li> <li>- Leave resin alone when working time has been reached</li> </ul>
Oily cured surface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Film caused by amines in hardener while curing in cooler temperatures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use a cloth and gently wash with warm water and dish soap</li> </ul>
Scratches/minor imperfections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accidental.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wait 24 hours and sand surface with medium grit sandpaper before recoat</li> </ul>
Drips on underside of panel/canvas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resin running down the sides while curing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Carefully warm with a heat gun to ease cured drips off with a knife</li> <li>- Tape and mask the underside of your artwork</li> </ul>
Unwanted tape/resin cured on sides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resin pouring over edge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use an electric hand sander to remove hardened resin and for smooth finishes</li> </ul>
Settled dust particles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leaving resin to cure uncovered.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use cardboard boxes or plastic containers to cover and protect during curing process</li> </ul>

TIP: Don't be afraid to sand! Lightly sanding between cured layers gives the surface tooth and allows for good adhesion of the resin. Marks will not show when you reapply another coat of resin.

TIP: Use silicone tools and containers when using resin. Leave a popsicle stick in an empty scraped out container. Pulling out the stick out the following day will bring with it the leftover cured resin film. You will be left with a clean reusable container

Heat Gun vs. Flame Torch - What's the difference?

Both a heat gun and a torch (butane/propane) can be used with resin to eliminate bubbles. Which one you choose is determined by the desired results. If you are using resin as a clear top coat finish on your art, you should opt for a torch. By gently moving the flame over the surface (barely kissing resin) you will release the bubbles rising to the surface without moving or blowing around the resin itself.

If your desired result is to add depth, colour blending, lacing and texture in your resin, then you should use a heat gun. This tool blows hot air across the surface and literally pushes the resin around the surface, the opposite of a butane flame torch.

### Popular Resin Brands

Pebeo <http://en.pebeo.com/Creative-leisure/Gedeo-Bio-Based-Resins/Bio-Based-Glazing-Resins>

Art Resin [www.artresin.com](http://www.artresin.com)

Glasscast [www.easycomposites.co.uk](http://www.easycomposites.co.uk)

ResinPro [www.resinpro.it](http://www.resinpro.it)

StoneCoat [www.stonecoatcountertops.com](http://www.stonecoatcountertops.com)

Barnes Epoxy [www.barnes.com.au](http://www.barnes.com.au)

Just Resin [www.justresin.com.au](http://www.justresin.com.au)

Crystal Clear [www.smooth-on.com](http://www.smooth-on.com)

Artworks Resin [www.artworksresin.ca](http://www.artworksresin.ca)

Resin Obsession [www.resinobsession.com](http://www.resinobsession.com)

EcoPoxy [www.ecopoxy.com](http://www.ecopoxy.com)

MasterCast [www.resinworks.ca](http://www.resinworks.ca)

CounterCulture [www.counterculturediy.com](http://www.counterculturediy.com)