

How we test



Stuck fast: market leader No More Nails Ultra was able to hold the weight of a chair and one of our researchers

Sticky business

We use the glues for a range of basic DIY tasks, including sticking a dado rail to a wall. We measure the glues' strengths by using a 'butt pull-off test' – two pieces of wood are glued end to end and pulled in opposite directions on a testing rig; we gradually increase the force until the bond is broken.

We also stick shelves to a wall and add weights until they collapse. Instant Nails (4) and Serious Stuff (7) managed to carry 30kg – that's 30 copies of the Concise Oxford English Dictionary.

Sticking power

Are super-strength glues as strong as they claim?

Super-strength glues, or 'grab adhesives' for all the DIY experts out there, are a useful addition to any toolbox. They can be used for many jobs around the home, including attaching dado rails and skirting boards to walls and coving to ceilings. Grab adhesives can be used if you are worried about drilling into cables or fragile walls, or don't want ugly screw or nail heads on view. They're also great for using alongside tacks to ensure a very strong bond, and some can even be used to glue down carpet and carpet grippers.

We found that some of the glues on test had a stronger instant grab than others, so if you're planning to attach a dado rail to a wall you may find you need to support the weight for some time before it sticks. This might seem annoying but it does allow you to reposition whatever you are fixing if you don't instantly hit the right spot.

Overall, we were impressed with the glues we tested and even products that scored an average mark would be suitable for undertaking basic DIY tasks.

For the manufacturers' contact details, go to www.which.co.uk/glue.

Best Buys

All three Best Buy glues are strong and easy to use

The strongest Best Buy is Forget Nails High Strength (1 in the table) from Wickes. It carried 20kg, about 17 bottles of wine, on shelves glued to a wall.

Liquid Nails (2) wasn't far behind in our strength tests. So if there isn't a Wickes near you, this is your next best bet – it's available from the Screwfix catalogue or website.

Our final Best Buy is No More Nails Ultra (3). It did well in our performance

tests and was the best glue on test that could be painted over once dry. It's widely available at most hardware stores.

As you can see from the table, all of the Best Buys are gap filling. Walls are rarely straight, so if you use a non gap-filling glue to stick, say, a skirting board to a wall, you will need to use filler where the walls curve.



USING THE TABLE

We tested the leading brands. The more stars the better.

Specification

Price For Best Buys, we give the cheapest widely available high-street price. Prices for

other products are a guide.

Packaging A cartridge is suitable for use with a sealant gun, which can be reused and costs around £4 from DIY stores.

Test performance

Ease of use How easy it is to open packaging, apply, clean away excess and, where appropriate, fit to a sealant gun. **Performance** Results of fixing a one-metre skirting board to bare bricks, and a two-metre dado rail and a pine shelf loaded with weights to a painted plastered wall. Strength tests included the butt pull-off test – see 'How we test'.

Score

This ignores price and is based on:

Performance	50%
Ease of use	35%
Instructions	10%
Features	5%

	BRAND	SPECIFICATION						TEST PERFORMANCE		SCORE %
		PRICE (£)	SIZE (ml)	PACKAGING	GAP FILLING	FLEXIBLE	PAINTABLE	EASE OF USE	PERFORMANCE	
1	WICKES Forget Nails High Strength	2.79	310	tube	✓			★★★★★	★★★★★	81
2	EVO-STIK Liquid Nails	3.55	295	tube	✓			★★★★★	★★★★★	68
3	UNIBOND No More Nails Ultra	5.98	310	tube	✓	✓	✓	★★★★	★★★★★	66
4	EVERBUILD Instant Nails	1.79	350	cartridge	✓		✓	★★★★★	★★★★	64
5	UNIBOND No More Nails Super Strength	4.48	310	tube	✓	✓	✓	★★★★★	★★★★	64
6	B&Q Grab Adhesive	2.78	200	tube	✓			★★★★★	★★★★	62
7	EVO-STIK Serious Stuff	5.98	290	cartridge				★★★★	★★★★★	59
8	SCREWFIX I Can't Believe It's Not Nails	1.19	310	cartridge	✓		✓	★★	★★★★	50
9	EVERBUILD Pink Grip SF	1.68	350	cartridge	✓			★★	★★★★	49
10	HOMEBASE Easy Nails	3.99	310	tube	✓			★★	★★★★	46