



# Plastic Wood-X<sup>®</sup>

## ALL PURPOSE WOOD FILLER with DryDex<sup>®</sup> Dry Time Indicator

Here are some handy **Application Tips** that we've found helpful:

### Before You Fill

- **Choosing the right surface**—The type of wood can make a big difference in the look of the final repair. Choose a surface as close to the “Natural” color of the wood filler you will apply. Wood with heavy grain will show a repair area more. Choose a wood with less grain and test it first to make sure you have a good color and stain match.
- **Preparing the surface**—Surface should be clean and dry. De-gloss the surface if necessary. Surface, wood filler, and air temperature should be above 40°F. If you'll be staining the wood, make sure to stain before filling with wood filler. Once the filler is dried and sanded, you will go back and stain the wood filler. If you want to limit the areas around a fill that will need to be sanded, use painter's tape to keep those areas protected.

### How to Apply

- Press filler into place with putty knife. For deep gouges larger than 1/4" in depth, multiple layers are recommended instead of a single fill. Overfill slightly to allow for sanding or settling.
- If you are using Plastic Wood on an exterior surface, or on a surface that you will place outside, make sure to choose a surface that will be painted, stained with a solid color stain, or otherwise sealed. Unpainted wood (on any side—even the underside of a deck) will take in moisture which can cause a lot of expansion and contraction that will limit the durability of your repair over time.

**T** Be on the look-out for this icon throughout—it signals one of our “Tips + Tricks” developed by product experts to help ensure a successful application.

**T** A commonly-seen mistake occurs when there is a small, open area between the edge of the filler and the wood where stain can pool up and soak into the wood. This results in the appearance of a dark ring around the repair.

*If you stain the wood to be repaired first, this will prevent a ring since stained wood does not accept as much stain as unstained wood.*

*Make sure you overfill and sand well to get a seamless repair.*

*Plastic Wood should be applied by slightly overfilling the surface to allow for sanding and settling.*

See **Finishing and Clean-Up** tips on reverse.



## Finishing

- All Plastic Wood filler can be sanded, painted and stained.
- **Sanding**—Once cured, the filled surface should be sanded flush to remove the excess and leave a smooth finish.

Allow to dry approximately 2 to 6 hours for shallow fills and 36 hours for deeper fills.

Wood filler will change color from pink to natural to indicate the surface is ready to be sanded. Sand with medium-grit sandpaper.

- **Painting + Staining (required for all exterior surfaces)**—make sure to paint, stain (with a solid color stain) or otherwise seal your final project.

Repaired surfaces can be painted with latex-based paint immediately after sanding, or after 12 hours using an oil-based paint.

**T** For trim with fine detail and/or rounded edges, sanding sponges with beveled edges can help you sand more precisely and achieve virtually invisible repairs.

## Clean-Up

- Before the product cures—use a wet paper towel or rag to clean areas around the repair for a clean look.
- After Plastic Wood cures—use sandpaper to remove any excess residue.
- Reseal tightly with lid after each use.

**T** When placing a screw into a cured Plastic Wood repair, always pre-drill a pilot hole to avoid placing too much stress on the patch.

Plastic Wood should not be used to repair flexible surfaces.

The color of the wood filler in the tube does not reflect the cured color as it will dry slightly darker.

Questions? We're here to help.  
Give our DAP TIPS Help Line a call  
Monday–Friday, 8 am–5 pm,  
or Saturdays from 9 am–6 pm, Eastern.  
1-888-DAP-TIPS



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