

# DOWEL ROD USES

Dowels have many uses from the utilitarian to the ornate. They can be used where a strong rod is needed like a coat rack, toy or a gate. Dowels can also be used for creating decorative architectural details from room accents to stair rail balusters.

- Premium hardwood
- Strong and durable
- Fine appearance
- Smooth surface that readily accepts paint, stain and polyurethane



**Below are a just few ways to use dowel rods that you may not have thought of:**

1. Spread Grout Evenly  
Use the end of a small dowel to push in grout around a faucet or a hard-to-reach corner
2. Relaminate a Countertop: Apply contact cement to the underlayment and the backside of laminate that is starting to lift. Lay a dowel across the counter, then roll it while pressing down so that the laminate adheres evenly.
3. Make a Twine Dispenser
4. Hanging, drape, or tablecloth weight:  
Dowels are great for weighting the bottom of textiles
5. Ribbon and wrapping organizer:

Ribbons, wrapping paper, and similar items like to unfurl and create a huge mess. You can create a ribbon rack with dowels attached to a backing board and wrap leftover wrapping paper around dowels to create a tight cylinder (use removable tape to hold the paper down) so your paper doesn't go wild when you're not using it.

6. Dowel joints:

Hey, you might as well use a dowel for what it was designed to do. These woodworking joints allow you to create a hidden reinforcement with the use of a dowel as a peg inside the joint to support the wood. They'll add strength and allow you to limit unsightly seams and hardware on the outside of the joint. This trick is used by carpenters all over the world.

7. Added shelf support:

You can utilize stout dowels as the braces for a new shelf in a bookcase, and to create added support for a heavy shelf (such as one laden with dictionaries). Cut your dowels to the right height and anchor them in the structure of the bookcase so shelves don't sag in the middle.

8. Cheap curtain hangers:

Since people don't see the curtain rod, your spare dowels will do just fine. You can add fancy finials if you want - and those can be thrifted or salvaged to keep costs low. Choose a dowel of appropriate width for the fabric, making sure it's thick enough to support the weight of materials like velvet or heavy canvas. (Speaking of curtains, if you're concerned about window security, you can also use a dowel in the slider to create a lock.)

9. Tool rehabilitation:

Have a broom or tool with a handle that's going the way of the dodo? If the tool on the end is still in good shape, detach the worn handle and replace it with a dowel of appropriate thickness. Much less expensive than buying a new tool handle!

10. Roller:

Dowels, as we know, are round (that's sort of a key component of these doodads), and you can use that to your advantage. Press down on contact paper and other materials you're trying to roll out flat and even with a dowel -- you can also use one as a rolling pin in a pinch (go for a thick dowel and rub it with food-safe mineral oil before you start).



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