

FOR CARD MAKING

the crafter's
Adhesive
Guide

A friendly cheat sheet to every kind of adhesive in your craft room — what each one does best, and which Stampin' Up!® product to reach for when you need it.



Gwen
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SCAN TO SHOP

There are a *ton* of adhesives out there.

OK — there are more than a ton, and new ones come about every day, it seems. Adhesive is one of the most common things crafters ask about. Here are some quick guidelines to help you choose the right one for your project.

01 — EVERYDAY HOLD

Tape Runners

This type of adhesive is excellent for adhering papers of all sorts together. It's the go-to adhesive for card makers, and it's very cost effective. You only need a bit in each corner and in the middle of a photo-sized panel for a good, secure hold.

Before you choose one, there are a couple of things to consider:

- 1 Does it need to be **archival safe?** (Mainly a scrapbooking concern, or anytime you're using photos.)
- 2 How much **hold** do you need? Everyday panels vs. heavier, dimensional pieces.

STAMPIN' UP!® OPTIONS

- **Stampin' Seal** — a refillable everyday runner with a permanent bond. Perfect for general card making.
- **Stampin' Seal+** — a wider, extra-strong line for heavier panels and dimensional pieces that need more hold.



STAMPIN' SEAL



STAMPIN' SEAL+



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02 — STICKY 3-D BITS

Glue Dots

These are little dots of super-sticky adhesive on a roll of release paper, most often used to adhere 3-D elements like buttons, metal embellishments, and bows. They can stick paper together too, but can leave bumps — so they're best saved for those little 3-D extras.

STAMPIN' UP!® OPTIONS

- **Mini Glue Dots** — not too big, not too small. Ideal for adhering small embellishments cleanly, with no mess.

03 — LIFT & DIMENSION

Dimensionals

These are thin foam adhesive pieces — shaped like little octagons — with adhesive on both sides that lift the pieces you adhere slightly off the page. There's hardly a project that doesn't benefit from a little dimension.

STAMPIN' UP!® OPTIONS

- **Stampin' Dimensionals** — the classic foam octagons for everyday lift.
- **Mini Dimensionals** — smaller pieces for tiny elements and detailed work.
- **Black Dimensionals** — the same lift in black, so they disappear behind dark or die-cut elements.



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04 — HEAVY-DUTY HOLD

Adhesive Tape

This is different from a tape runner — it's tape on a roll, and it's much stronger than the adhesive inside a tape runner. It's perfect for creating boxes, bags, and other 3-D projects from paper.

Reach for it anytime a project needs a serious, no-budge hold that a runner can't quite manage.

STAMPIN' UP!® OPTIONS

- **Tear & Tape** — a strong, tearable double-sided adhesive. No scissors needed — just tear and press. Ideal for boxes, treat holders, and heavier embellishments.

05 — ALL-PURPOSE GLUING

Liquid Glue

Liquid glue is a true all-rounder — ideal for cardstock and paper, embellishments, 3-D objects and accents, and detailed die cuts. A little goes a LONG way, so dispense sparingly.

When choosing a liquid glue, the tip matters: a fine tip gives thin, precise lines, while a broader opening covers more area.

STAMPIN' UP!® OPTIONS

- **Multipurpose Liquid Glue** — a versatile glue with both a fine tip and a broad spreader for embellishments and 3-D accents.
- **Fine-Tip Glue Pen** — a precision applicator for thin lines and tiny details, perfect for delicate die cuts.



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MULTIPURPOSE LIQUID GLUE



Images © 2026 Stampin' Up! ®

FINE-TIP GLUE PEN



Images © 2026 Stampin' Up! ®

06 — DETAILED DIE CUTS

Adhesive Sheets

These are full sheets of double-sided adhesive that are sticky on both sides. Press your cardstock or die-cut shape onto one side, peel away the liner, and the whole piece is perfectly adhesive-backed and ready to place.

They're the answer for intricate die cuts and foil work — anywhere a tape runner simply can't reach all the little details.

STAMPIN' UP!® OPTIONS

- **Adhesive Sheets** — double-sided adhesive sheets that make detailed die cuts and foil quick and mess-free.

07 — SHAKERS & FRAMES

Foam Strips

These are adhesive-backed foam in long strips that add even, raised dimension. Just cut them to length, peel, and press them in place.

They're perfect for building the raised frame of a shaker card, or for lifting a whole panel evenly off the page along its edges.

STAMPIN' UP!® OPTIONS

- **Foam Strips** — adhesive-backed foam strips for shaker frames and even, edge-to-edge dimension.



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KEEP THIS PAGE HANDY

The Quick-Pick Cheat Sheet

Not sure which to grab? Find what you're doing on the left, reach for what's on the right.

WHEN YOU WANT TO...

REACH FOR

Adhere paper, panels & layers

Stampin' Seal / Seal+ for extra hold

Stick on 3-D bits — buttons, bows, brads

Mini Glue Dots

Add lift & dimension to a panel

Dimensionals • Mini • Black

Build boxes, bags & treat holders

Tear & Tape

Glue paper, embellishments & die cuts

Liquid Glue / Fine-Tip for detail

Adhere intricate die cuts & foil

Adhesive Sheets

Frame a shaker or lift an even edge

Foam Strips



When in doubt, match the weight of what you're sticking to the strength of your adhesive!

THE WHOLE LINE AT A GLANCE

Suggested Use Chart

Every Stampin' Up!® adhesive and what it's best suited for. A ★ marks a great match.

	CARDSTOCK & PAPER	SMALL EMBELLISHMENTS	LARGE EMBELLISHMENTS	RIBBON	3-D OBJECTS & ACCENTS	DETAILED DIE CUTS
Stampin' Seal	★			★		
Stampin' Seal+	★			★	★	
Tear & Tape Adhesive	★		★	★	★	
Mini Glue Dots	★	★	★	★		
Multipurpose Liquid Glue	★	★	★		★	★
Fine-Tip Glue Pen		★				★
Stampin' Dimensionals	★		★			
Mini Stampin' Dimensionals	★	★	★			
Black Stampin' Dimensionals	★		★			
Foam Adhesive Strips	★					
Foam Adhesive Sheets	★					★
Adhesive Sheets						★

Reference: official Stampin' Up!® adhesive suggested-use guide.

Hi there!

I hope this guide helps you sort out your sticky situations! I love keeping a variety of adhesives on hand, because they each play a vital role in the kind of crafting we do.

Kinda like cooking utensils — there isn't one tool that does it all.

Have an adhesive tip you'd like to share? I'd love to hear it — come say hello over on the blog!

Happy crafting, Gwen



READY TO STOCK UP?

Shop these adhesives

Scan to find them all in my Stampin' Up!® store.



DON'T MISS A THING

Get my newsletter

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A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I'm so glad you're here

I'm Gwen — an Independent Stampin' Up!® Demonstrator who loves paper crafting and sharing the joy of it with you. You'll find me blogging over at travelingstamper.com, where I share what I'm making and the products I'm loving.

Want the good stuff — tutorials, project inspiration, and the little tips that make crafting easier? That all goes out in my newsletter. Sign up and craft along with me; I can't wait to create with you!

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