



# FIELD REPAIRS OF PLYWOOD

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## Introduction

A damaged plywood surface can often be restored by field repairs to near its original condition and appearance. Dents and gouges, usually caused by mechanical equipment or thrown objects, are not only unsightly, but also may make a panel unusable for some applications (architectural concrete forming, for example). Blisters, another type of damage, are usually caused by localized adhesive failure. These damaged plywood surfaces can be easily, quickly and economically repaired in the field to an acceptable condition by following the step-by-step procedures outlined below.

**Dents and Gouges** – The best type of material available for repairing dents and gouges is a 100%-solids two-component high-performance resin system. A system that has been found to perform satisfactorily is high-quality polyester-base auto body repair putty. Products of this type are usually available from local automobile parts stores, marine supply houses and hardware stores. Read the manufacturer's instructions carefully and follow mixing and application directions

exactly. Mix only small amounts, because many of these systems, when mixed in large quantities, cure so rapidly that the resins harden before they can be used.

## Repair Method:

1. Remove all loose and damaged wood and any exposed panel glue line by chiseling or routing.
2. Apply masking tape around the periphery of each area to be repaired. (This keeps smears of the resin to a minimum on the surrounding surfaces.)
3. Apply the repair material to the clean void with a putty knife or a similar tool.
4. Permit repair material to partially set, remove masking tape, and texture as required to match surrounding wood surface. Repairs to smooth surfaces such as sanded plywood can be blended with the texture of the surrounding veneer by sanding along the grain with a fine grit sandpaper. Roughsawn surfaces can be reasonably simulated by sanding the repair across the grain direction of the face veneer. Use a coarse sandpaper such as 36 grit.
5. If the panel was finished, refinish repair to match. For stain finish, this can be effectively done by dabbing the stain over the repair with a cloth until the desired

color match is achieved. For paint, the finish should be carefully applied by brush with minimum overlapping of existing finish.

**Blisters** – Blistered surfaces can be effectively rebonded using a gap-filling adhesive such as one of those meeting APA Performance Specification AFG-01.

## Repair Method:

1. Make one or two slits for the full length of the blistered area. The slits should be parallel to the direction of the face grain.
2. Gently lift the veneer (or overlay) at the slits and inject the gap-filling adhesive. Spread adhesive over the entire blistered surface.
3. Press blistered veneer (or overlay) to the panel and staple securely and flat to substrate. Carefully wipe off any adhesive squeeze-out.
4. Allow adhesive to cure one week and then remove staples. (Note: if staples are left in place they may rust and discolor the panel surface.)
5. If blistered panel was finished, refinish the blistered area to match the rest of the panel surface.

We have field representatives in most major U.S. cities and in Canada who can help answer questions involving APA trademarked products. For additional assistance in specifying APA engineered wood products, get in touch with your nearest APA regional office. Call or write:

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