



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FILLERS, GLAZES AND PUTTIES

Do your fillers come with hardener?

Yes, all of our fillers are supplied with the required amount of hardener to use with them. For some of our products this is supplied within the can under a plastic cover, in some cases the hardener is loose.

What is the difference between colors of hardener?

There is no difference in performance, different colors are designed to give good contrast to the filler to ensure proper mixing.

Can I vary the hardener level added to a filler to make it cure quicker at low temperatures or apply better at higher temperatures?

For most products we recommend a 2% ratio of hardener to filler (3% for some). For products that have a 2% hardener recommendation, we advise that it is okay to vary this between 1% and 3% to compensate for climate conditions. In hot conditions you can go as low as 1% to increase open time and in cold conditions up to 3% to maintain reasonable cure times. It is only recommended to vary hardener to compensate for climatic variation and not recommended to add extra hardener under temperate conditions to make the product kick faster, as the overall cure will be affected and it can cause staining of the topcoat.

Can you use heat lamps to accelerate drying times of fillers and glazes?

Yes, they can be accelerated with heat lamps or infrared lamps. Be sure not to over heat the product, by keeping at a distance of two to three feet away and using a temperature of 175°F for five minutes on the lamp.

Can I use anyone's BPO/hardener in U-POL fillers?

Use of a different hardener is possible, but it may impact performance as per stated on the TDS. You need to make sure that the strength of the BPO is the same (50%), otherwise you need to change the mix ratio. Make sure you use a hardener with contrasting color to ensure good mixing.

What is the shelf life of fillers and glazes?

Our fillers range from two to five years, please refer to our shelf life on our website www.u-pol.com

What is the maximum temperature your fillers can take?

Most of our fillers are rated at 240°F for a one off exposure, but if cycling we recommend a maximum of 195°F.

Can I blend a filler and a glaze together to make a product of intermediate properties?

Yes – this is a common practice in many bodyshops. U-POL always recommends only cocktailing products within our brand, as we know these are compatible with each other. It is easiest if you blend products that use the same mix ratio of hardener.

What is the maximum and minimum temperature that fillers can be applied or used at?

We do not recommend applying our products below 40°F. There is no maximum temperature that they can be applied at, although work and curing times decrease as the temperature increases.

How do I measure out the correct amount of filler?

To get the most accurate measurement, it is best to measure the hardener using a scale. However, the easiest way to estimate the amount to use is to make a circular 'puddle' of filler and then make a ribbon of filler from the edge of the circle to approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way across to the other side.

If using Dolphin Glaze can you paint without primer?

For small areas it is fine to paint directly over Dolphin Glaze. For larger areas, U-POL would recommend that a primer / sealer is used before applying basecoat, to ensure that (expensive) basecoat is not wasted by being absorbed into the filler.

Can filler be used over primer?

Yes, as long as the primer is abraded first and another coat of primer is applied before the basecoat.

What color is the filler when it cures?

This varies depending on the product in question. The color of each of the different fillers can be found on the website.

Can you use filler over fiberglass?

Yes – most of our fillers can be used over fiberglass. Always follow the preparation instructions on the TDS for the product in question.

Will the filler bond to galvanized steel / aluminium?

Yes – most of our fillers can be used over both steel and aluminium. There is an approved substrate list on each TDS and always follow the preparation instructions on the TDS for the product in question.

Can I use automotive filler over wood?

Automotive filler is very similar in composition and performance to 2K wood fillers. It performs well over wood, although if a good match to the color of wood is desired it may be better to buy a specialized wood filler as these tend to be available in a range of brown colors to match different woods.

Can I use filler over plastics?

There are a huge number of plastics, each of which has different properties. For bumper repair U-POL recommend their specialist Plastic Filler (JP7061) which is flexible and has good adhesion to most common automotive plastics. For all fillers, please check the TDS before use for compatibility and a preparation guide.

What advantages do premium fillers have over more value end fillers?

Each filler is different and has a different balance of properties to any other and so it is difficult to generalize, but typically the more premium fillers tend to be compatible with more substrates, be easier to sand and are less prone to pinholes and give a smoother finish, particularly at the feather edge.

Can I pigment my filler?

Yes, you can but make sure it is a polyester based colorant and do not add at greater than 2% to the filler.