



Adhesive in Post-it® Notes

Technical Bulletin

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General Information :

Post-it® Notes are mainly composed of a smooth and opaque paper coated with one or several stripes of 3M unique repositionable adhesive.

The ability to stick and re-stick indefinitely a Post-it® Note is given by a Pressure Sensitive Acrylate (PSA).

This PSA allows Post-it® Notes to stick on most surfaces, and then to be easily removed without being torn apart and without leaving residues of adhesive on the substrate.

This unique PSA also ensures consistency of the adhesion of Post-it® Notes throughout time and from lot to lot.

Surfaces of application :

The adhesive of Post-it® Notes was designed by 3M's own scientists to be as versatile as possible.

As a matter of fact, Post-it® Notes stick on most surfaces although the behaviour of a Post-it® Note posted on a surface depends on several factors :

- **the smoothness / roughness of the surface of application** as, for instance, a rough surface shows less points of contact for the adhesive.
- **the nature of the surface.**
In case of plastics for instance, chemicals present on the surface of plastics can prevent Post-it® Notes to adhere properly. These chemicals can either be plasticizers incorporated into the plastic formula or siliconised agents used to remove plastic pieces from the mold.
- **dust, grease, pollutant** on the surface of application that might contaminate the adhesive and thus prevent proper sticking.

According to what has been explained, the level of adhesion of a Post-it® Note can vary from surface to surface. Adhesion can either be reduced when posted (it is the case on some plastics) or increased (on most coated papers for instance).

As too many factors can modify the characteristics of adhesion of Post-it® Notes on substrates, it is recommended to make trials to make sure Post-it® Notes will stick on a surface.

In any case, to ensure the best anchorage of a Post-it® Note, it is recommended to clean the surface of application before use and to make sure the whole adhesive stripe of the Post-it® Note is in contact with the surface (the adhesion is independent of the pressure one exert on the adhesive stripe to make it stick).