

Hints For The Home

Don't Despair! Repair!

Hints For Restoring Commonly Broken Items

(NAPSA)—Breaking a favorite item is disheartening, especially when you don't know how to fix it. One important tip to remember is that not all adhesives are created equal. When selecting an adhesive, take into consideration the materials being glued together, the size of the repair and whether it needs to be water-, impact- or heat-resistant. Below are some repair tips for commonly broken items around the home:

- **Furniture.** Tables and chairs often break due to wear or added stress from moving or rearranging. Since most furniture breaks are uneven and the pieces do not fit back together perfectly, the best choice is epoxy gel, which is great for imperfect surfaces because it can fill in large gaps and create a strong bond. Epoxies are also water-resistant for items that need to withstand the elements.

- **Terra cotta or ceramic pots and vases.** Chips and cracks in pottery or vases make them a decorating eyesore and may make them unsuitable for planting. Use an epoxy to make repairs that are both waterproof and durable. Epoxies can be intimidating because you must mix the two-part adhesive, but as long as you read the instructions and mix equal parts, you'll find the extra effort is worth the great results.

- **Collectibles and decorations.** For quick fixes to precious antiques, ceramic figurines, collectibles and other knickknacks, use super glue, as it will adhere to many materials quickly and dry clear. Remember—with super glue less really is more. A few drops are enough to securely hold most minor repairs. The latest glue dis-



pensers offer precision control to help mend delicate pieces.

- **Crystal pieces.** Whether it's the set of candlesticks from your wedding registry or an heirloom that has been passed down from a family member, crystal pieces can be repaired to last more than a lifetime. Look for a specialty glue for glass that will allow for quick and easy bonding of clear and colored glass to ensure an invisible and strong repair.

- **Jewelry.** Repairing a piece of jewelry requires patience and precision. For a durable fix, try super glue or epoxy. Super glue is great in an emergency and dries clear, so it will blend into any piece. Epoxies are a better choice if the piece needs to withstand impact or water.

If you have a glue question on your project, visit the Loctite® brand Choose-a-Glue™ database (www.loctiteproducts.com) to help take the guessing out of gluing. Users can enter customized bond requirements, making it quick and easy to find the best adhesive. Fixing a broken item will be less of a chore and you'll have a well-done, lasting repair.