

BALING WIRE, DUCT TAPE AND WD40

INGENIOUS USES FOR EVERYDAY PRODUCTS...



Baling wire, Duct Tape and WD-40

have stood the test of time for the American handyman or woman for decades!.

If you have any hope of maintaining a household you need some good old fashioned "horse sense" and a stock pile of the basic equipment.

In this high tech world WD-40 and Duct Tape are still around, but baling wire is not so easy to find. Old timers can tell you that baling wire is essential for repairs that last.

Baling wire has led a double life. In one life, its original one, it was an essential part of agriculture. Baling wire was manufactured to be used to secure bales of hay or grain. In the early 1800's baling wire was used manually to hand-tie wire around bales.

Later bales were tied automatically by the baler. Whether hand or machine tied folks knew the value of saving the wire for other uses around the homestead.



The Depression and then helping to conserve for the War meant that folks learned to "make do" with what they had on hand.

While baling wire has been replaced by baling twine on most farms for securing hay bales, it is still a mainstay on many rural homesteads for those quick necessary repairs from fixing a gate to re-attaching parts to equipment.



Most folks of "experience" have fond memories of an old tractor or truck, rocking chair or a screen door that was held in place for years with baling wire.

There is hope for all the seasoned repairmen and women that formerly would have been searching for a piece of baling wire. Some new kid invented zip ties. They aren't as dangerous, won't rust and are much neater to use.

One American president even suggested (metaphorically) that baling wire could help with the county's economic woes.

"As we say down on the farm, 'maybe we ought to try to get by with some baling wire, patch things up,' to get by during this particular period, when there is such pressure on our economy."

President Lyndon B. Johnson, 1966

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baling_wire

DUCT TAPE



The original use for this Army green tape was for the military to keep moisture out of ammunition cases. Because it was waterproof, people referred to the tape as “Duck Tape”. Military personnel quickly discovered that the tape was quite versatile and used it to fix their guns, jeeps, aircraft, etc.

After the war, the tape was used in the booming housing industry to connect heating and air conditioning duct work together; the color was changed from green to silver to match the ductwork and people started to refer to the tape as “Duct Tape”.

Things changed during the 1970’s, when the manufacturers placed rolls of duct tape in shrink wrap, making it easier for retailers to stack the sticky rolls. Different grades and colors of duct tape weren’t far behind. Soon, duct tape became the most versatile tool in the household!

From:

Extraordinary Uses for Ordinary Things
<http://www.rd.com/advice-and-know-how/extraordinary-uses-for-duct-tape>



Reinforce book binding: Duct tape is perfect for repairing a broken book binding. Using colored tape, run the tape down the length of the spine and cut shorter pieces to run perpendicular to that if you need extra reinforcement.

Hang Christmas lights: Festive holiday lights are fun in season, but a real chore when it's time for them to come down. Use duct tape to hang your lights and the removal job will be much easier. Tear duct tape into thin strips. At intervals, wrap strips around the wire and then tape the strand to the gutter or wherever you hang your lights.

Stay afloat: You're out for a paddle, when you discover a small hole in your canoe. Thank goodness you thought to pack duct tape in your supply kit. Pull the canoe out of the water, dry the area around the hole, and apply a duct tape patch to the outside of the canoe. You're ready to finish your trip.

Temporarily hem your pants: You've found a terrific pair of jeans, but the length isn't right. You expect a little shrinkage anyway, so why spend time hemming? Besides, thick denim jeans are difficult to sew through. Fake the hem with duct tape. The new hem will last through a few washes too.

Remove lint on clothing: You're all set to go out for the night and suddenly you notice pet hairs on your outfit. Quick, grab the duct tape and in no time, you'll be ready to go. Wrap your hand with a length of duct tape, sticky side out. Then roll the sticky tape against your clothing in a rocking motion until every last hair has been picked up. Don't wipe, since that may affect the nap.

Make a bandage in a pinch: You've gotten a bad scrape. Here's how to protect it until you get a proper bandage. Fold tissue paper or paper towel to cover the wound and cover this with duct tape. It may not be attractive, but it works in a jam.

Reseal bags of chips: Tired of stale potato chips? To keep a half-finished bag fresh, fold up the top and seal it tight with a piece of duct tape.

Keep a secret car key: You'll never get locked out of your car again if you affix an extra key to the undercarriage with duct tape.

Catch pesky flies; You've just checked into a rustic cabin on the lake and you're ready to start your vacation. Everything would be perfect if only the flying insects were not part of the deal. Grab your roll of duct tape and roll off a few foot-long strips. Hang them from the rafters as flypaper. Soon you'll be rid of the bugs and you can roll up the tape to toss it in the trash.

Replace a shower curtain grommet: How many times have you yanked the shower curtain aside only to rip through one of the delicate eyelets? Grab the duct tape to make a simple repair. Once the curtain is dry, cut a rectangular piece and fold it from front to back over the torn hole. Slit the tape with a mat knife, razor blade, or scissors, and push the shower curtain ring back in place.

Repair a vacuum hose: Has your vacuum hose cracked and developed a leak? It doesn't spell the end of your vacuum. Repair the broken hose with duct tape. Your vacuum will last until the motor gives out.

Repair a tent: You open your tent at the campsite and oops -- a little tear. No problem as long as you've brought your duct tape along. Cover the hole with a patch; for double protection mirror the patch inside the tent. You'll keep insects and weather where they belong.

Make an emergency sneaker lace: You're enjoying a game of driveway hoops when you bust a sneaker lace. Ask for a brief time-out while you grab the duct tape from the garage. Cut off a piece of tape that's as long as you need and rip off twice the width you need. Fold the tape in half along its length, sticky side in. Thread your new lace onto your sneaker, tie it up, and you are ready for your next jump shot.

Repair a taillight: Someone just backed into your car and smashed the taillight! Here's a quick repair that will last until you have time to get to the repair shop. Depending on where the cracks lie, use yellow or red duct tape to hold the remaining parts together. In some states this repair will even pass inspection.

Short-term auto hose fix: Until you can get to your mechanic, duct tape makes a strong and dependable temporary fix for broken water hoses on your automobile. But don't wait too long. Duct tape can only withstand temperatures up to 200°F (93°C). Also, don't use it to repair a leak in your car's gas line -- the gasoline dissolves the adhesive .

Fix a hole in your siding: Stormy weather damaged your vinyl siding? A broken tree limb tossed by the storm, hailstones, or even an errant baseball can rip your siding. Patch tears in vinyl siding with duct tape. Choose tape in a color that matches your siding and apply it when the surface is dry. Smooth your repair by hand or with a rolling pin. The patch should last at least a season or two.

Replace Lawn Chair Webbing: Summertime is here, and you go to the shed to fetch your lawn furniture, only to discover the webbing on your favorite backyard chair has worn through. Don't throw it out. Colorful duct tape makes a great, sturdy replacement webbing. Cut strips twice as long as you need. Double the tape, putting sticky sides together, so that you have backing facing out on both sides. Then screw it in place with the screws on the chair.

Tape a broken window: Before removing broken window glass, crisscross the broken pane with duct tape to hold it all together. This will ensure a shard doesn't fall out and cut you.

Repair outdoor cushions: Don't let a little rip in the cushions for your outdoor furniture bother you. Repair the tear with a closely matched duct tape and it will hold up for several seasons.

Repair a trash can: Plastic trash cans often split or crack along the sides. But don't toss out the can with the trash. Repair the tear with duct tape. It's strong enough to withstand the abuses a trash can takes, and easy to manipulate on the curved or ridged surface of your can. Put tape over the crack both outside and inside the can.

Protect yourself from ticks: When you're out on a hike, on your way to your favorite fishing hole, or just weeding in the yard, protect your ankles from those pesky ticks. Wrap duct tape around your pant cuffs to seal out the bugs. This is a handy way to keep your pant leg out of your bicycle chain too!

Create a clothesline: Whether you're out in the wilderness on a camping trip or in your own backyard, when you need a clothesline and you're without rope, think: duct tape. Twist a long piece of duct tape into a rope and bind it between trees for a clothesline. It makes a dandy jump rope as well or a basic rope sturdy enough to lash two items together. You can even use your creation to drag a child's wagon.

Protect your gas grill hose: For some reason, mice and squirrels love to chew on rubber, and one of their favorite snacks is often the rubber hose that connects the propane tank to your gas grill. Protect the hose by wrapping it in duct tape.

Make an emergency sneaker lace: You're enjoying a game of driveway hoops when you bust a sneaker lace. Ask for a brief time-out while you grab the duct tape from the garage. Cut off a piece of tape that's as long as you need and rip off twice the width you need. Fold the tape in half along its length, sticky side in. Thread your new lace onto your sneaker, tie it up, and you are ready for your next jump shot.

From [Extraordinary Uses for Ordinary Things](#)

•<http://www.rd.com/advice-and-know-how/extraordinary-uses-for-duct-tape/article23831.html>

WORDS OF WISDOM



“One only needs two tools in life: WD-40 to make things go and duct tape to make them stop.”

—G. Weilacher

WD-40

In **1953**, a fledgling company called Rocket Chemical Company and its staff of three set out to create a line of rust-prevention solvents and degreasers for use in the aerospace industry, in a small lab in San Diego, California.

It took them 40 attempts to get the water displacing formula worked out. But they must have been really good, because the original secret formula for WD-40®—which stands for Water Displacement perfected on the 40th try—is still in use today.



The following are appropriate uses for WD-40

- Removes black scuff marks from the kitchen floor.
- Helps dissolve bug splats from the finish of your vehicle.
- Removes road tar and grime from cars
- Loosens stubborn zippers
- Removes stains from stainless steel sinks
- Removes dirt and grime from the barbecue grill
- Keeps ceramic/terra cotta garden pots from oxidizing
- Keeps scissors working smoothly
- Lubricates noisy door hinges on vehicles and doors in homes
- Lubricates gear shift and mower deck lever for ease of handling on riding mowers
- Rids kids rocking chairs and swings of squeaky noises
- Lubricates tracks in sticking home windows and makes them easier to open
- Spraying an umbrella stem makes it easier to open and close
- Restores and cleans roof racks on vehicles
- Lubricates and stops squeaks in electric fans
- Lubricates wheel sprockets on tricycles, wagons, and bicycles for easy handling
- Lubricates fan belts on washers and dryers and keeps them running smoothly
- Keeps rust from forming on saws and saw blades, and other tools
- Keeps pigeons off the balcony (they hate the smell).
- Removes all traces of duct tape.
- Spray on the distributor cap of your car it will displace moisture and allow your vehicle to start.



You may have seen an e-mail with many uses for WD-40 that tells you the main ingredient is fish oil. That is not true.

WD-40 is a petroleum based solvent designed to be used as a spray lubricant. WD-40 is flammable and should only be used in well ventilated area.

According to the manufacturer the only approved methods of use are for solvent or degreasing purposes.

WD-40 should never be applied to the skin or used in any way that could cause the solvent to be ingested.

WD-40 is NOT a good product to use for a gun lubricant. WD-40 falls in the same category as penetrating oils. These products can permeate the primers on your bullets and cause misfires. You want that bullet to go off when it's supposed to.

WD-40 should never be used in locks. Locks should be cleaned with isopropyl alcohol, allowed to dry thoroughly and lubricated with dry graphite.

<http://WD-40.com>.

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