

5 WOODWORKING SHOP ESSENTIALS

While trying to make a piece, it's frustrating to realize that one of the essential materials needed to make the project successful is unavailable, and you've got to go and get it from a store immediately.

I've listed the five essential materials that must always be available. You may not consider these things when purchasing supplies, but you'll need them when building a project. They're not essential tools but things you'll use always when they get out of stock and need restocking.

Masking Tape

This tape could be used when finishing and painting. I use it to hold small projects attached when glueing them and to mark floors so that I know my position. The best size of this tape is the 1" size available in multi-packs.

Glue

Wood glue should always be available in a woodworking shop since it is used for all building works, so you don't need to make a memorable trip to a store just because you suddenly ran out of it. It is advisable to buy enough of this glue-like a gallon, to avoid applying a small amount of it to your connection, which may eventually affect the strength of such a connection.

Sandpaper

Just like the wood glue, always ensure that your sandpaper is replaced as soon as you open the last packet of sanding disc so that it'll not become an emergency. You may save money by purchasing the disc in bulk, which will always last a long time to avoid running out of stock.

Although I primarily use 120-grit paper, I also keep 80 and 220 grit. I don't need other grits apart from these three. I also like to use 320 grit for sanding the finished coating.

Screw

Often, you may need a different length of screws for specific projects, but screws such as one ¼" are multipurpose screws used at all times for other jobs, from holding pieces together to jig making.

I choose this size because I always work on thick lumbers of ¾", so this ¼" screw is perfect for joinery. Star-drive screws should also be readily available; although they are expensive, they perform better.

Latex Gloves

If you don't want to paint, finish, and some stuff to get on your hands, use disposable latex gloves. Debris and dirt may be transferred from your hands to the project's surface during finishing, but latex gloves can help prevent this. Also, you won't need harsh chemicals or mineral spirits to clean your hands afterwards. Before I discovered this big box of latex gloves, I thought a greasy and dirty hand was a trademark of honour, but now I know it's annoying and sickening.