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## Avoid Wood Warping or Cracking When Creating Habitats

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A common "problem" with the Elmers glue habitat method is wood absorbing moisture out of the glue mixture causing the Wood Base to warp or crack. Here are two methods to avoid that issue.

### Method #1



1) Supplies



2) Rough the surface of the habitat "pool" with a stout ruffer or similar tool. This aids the bondo's adhesion to the wood base. If desired, to add even more "grip", several staples can be partially embedded in the pool area for the bondo/habitat to grab onto.



3) Masking tape off the exposed area of the Wood Base. Mix Bondo/Resin to a "pourable" consistency and then catalyze. Simply pour the mixture into the habitat pool area and rock it around making SURE the exposed wood is covered in a thin layer of Bondo.



4) Allow the Bondo mixture to fully cure and simply proceed as usual with the glue mixture or preferred method. Applying steps 1-3 WILL assure the wood is "sealed" and will prevent the Wood Base from "warping or cracking".

## Method #2



1) Follow steps 1-2 above, Driftwood or habitat plants can be secured at this point as long as they are not obstructing the application of the Bondo mixture in step 3.



2) Mix Bondo/Resin/Powdered Cement Dye. Any coloring agent that works with Bondo will work, though Black powdered cement dye is preferred. Mix the Bondo/Resin to a thin "toothpaste" consistency, add a SMALL amount of catalyst/hardener and mix. Then, add the proper amount of dye to color the mixture to the desired darkness (usually made to look like dirt).



3) After properly mixing, you can add some DRY ground clutter into the mix, stir it in and then apply that mixture to the habitat pool area. IMMEDIATELY add ANY DRY surface habitat desired, Rocks/Dirt/Ground Clutter to achieve the "look" you desire in the finished habitat. Manipulate it into the desired position before the Bondo mixture sets/cures. Once the mixture is SET/DRY, if needed, you can "mist" the habitat with Clear Krylon OR Lightly mist the surface with Thinned Elmers glue from an atomizer to aid in holding the surface ground clutter.



4) Remove the masking tape to reveal your finished, customer ready habitat.



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