

Inflatable Mattress Repair

Let me explain what happens to most of us; we go along and purchase said mattress for many reasons. Family coming over for Christmas, camping and what have you. So you buy said mattress for what; R200.00 or so? (The expensive ones can run up to a THOUSAND RAND AND MORE). The first time you use it, it's perfect. So is the second and third time. But from the fourth or so, it develops, inexplicably so, a darn puncture! Now if only you had known about the puncture BEFORE you went to sleep on the thing! Anyways. So you have a puncture. Now what? Fold the stupid thing up and dump it in the garage somewhere to collect dust and in the end, to land in the dustbin. That's the norm. People like you and I have tried Super glue, duct/masking tape, gen-kem, hot air guns, and molten plastic. (Bicycle-tyre patch and solution also comes to mind).



This ring a bell?



So you are one of those hundreds and even thousands of people that just throw their inflatable mattresses away? You are? Well then. What if I tell you that there is a way to save money? What if I can prove that there is a way to repair said mattress? How you ask?

Simple...

Get hold of some PVC off-cut. A de-greaser i.e. Clean Green. The air pump. A scissors and of course, your ever present bottle of Satlon 105.



After removing the duct tape, I saw that the “puncture” was worse than expected. It wasn’t a puncture but a tear in the fabric.



Right then. First things first. The oil test. A drop of glue on the plastic.



The finger test. Slide finger slowly through the glue. If it slides through like a knife through butter, then go to the “Oil-Based Plastic” Tab and follow those steps in conjunction with these. Just no powders please.



Clearly I don't have any oil problems here. The plastic is shiny but sometimes one is lucky. Most mattresses are readily repairable by the way.



I'm taking a short cut here, so let me explain. Cut off a small piece of PVC. On average 20x20. Cut patch into a circle. On average the size of a 20c coin. (This patch is bigger as I have to repair a tear and not a puncture). Wash the patch with the de-greaser. Rinse with clean water.



Dry the patch. You are now ready for the repair work.



Another shortcut here. Normally you would inflate the mattress about $\frac{3}{4}$'s. problem is this is a tear so inflating IS a problem. I just placed it on my knee to steady the material and placed the patch over the tear.



This part can be tricky though not so with the mattress $\frac{3}{4}$ pumped up. Here you have to make sure that the glue does not run through the tear to the inside and glue the material to the underside. Lift up $\frac{1}{2}$ of the patch and gently pour some glue.



Apply pressure. Lift up other $\frac{1}{2}$ and do the same. The more pressure, the longer its applied the better. Approximately 10 to 20 seconds.

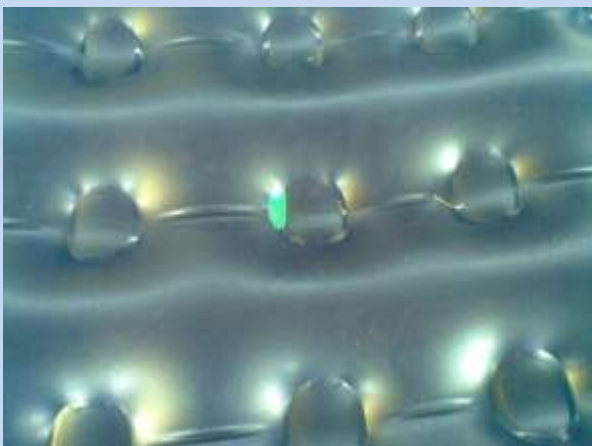


Check the edges in case there are areas where the glue did not reach. Glue and apply pressure. You are nearly finished. Should fingers be glued – roll don't pull!



It may be a good idea though to get PVC that's the same color as the mattress. Just a small tip!

Take a few seconds here to admire your work knowing that you just made yourself popular with the wife.



VERY POPULAR INDEED!