

# The Resin Language: Glossary of Key Terms You'll Actually Use

Resin art comes with its own vocabulary, and when you're just starting out, the lingo can feel like a secret code. Don't worry—you don't need to memorize a chemistry textbook. This glossary includes the essential terms you'll actually hear and use in your resin journey. Think of it as your translation guide from confused beginner to confident creator.

- 1. Epoxy Resin:** A two-part liquid plastic that hardens into a solid when mixed with a hardener. Used in art, jewelry, coatings, and furniture.
- 2. Resin (Part A):** The main component of the mixture. It's usually thicker and clear. You combine this with the hardener to activate curing.
- 3. Hardener (Part B):** The chemical that triggers the curing process when mixed with the resin. Always mix in the correct ratio.
- 4. Mixing Ratio:** The exact proportion of resin to hardener you must follow for proper curing (e.g., 1:1 or 2:1). Always measure by volume unless the label says otherwise.
- 5. Pot Life:** The amount of time you have to work with mixed resin before it starts curing and becomes unusable. Typically 20–60 minutes.
- 6. Curing:** The chemical process that transforms mixed resin from a liquid to a solid. Full curing often takes 24–72 hours.
- 7. Cure Time:** How long it takes for resin to reach its final hardness. Touch-dry might be 24 hours, but full hardness can take longer.
- 8. Viscosity:** A measure of how thick or runny the resin is. Low-viscosity resin is thinner and flows more easily (used for casting), while high-viscosity resin is thicker (used for coating).
- 9. Casting Resin:** A thinner resin used for deep pours and molds. Takes longer to cure but reduces bubbles and heat buildup.
- 10. Coating Resin:** A thicker resin used for applying surface layers on trays, canvases, and furniture. Cures faster and levels well.

**11. Self-Leveling:** A resin feature that allows it to spread evenly on a flat surface without brushing or smoothing.

**12. Bubbles:** Air pockets that form during mixing. These can be removed with heat (torch or heat gun) or prevented by slow stirring.

**13. Heat Gun/Torch:** Tools used to remove surface bubbles and help resin settle. A must-have for bubble-free finishes.

**14. Silicone Mold:** Flexible, non-stick molds used to shape resin pieces. Resin doesn't stick to silicone, making demolding easy.

**15. Demold Time:** The point when resin has hardened enough to be removed from the mold, usually 12–24 hours after pouring.

**16. Inclusions:** Items like glitter, flowers, beads, or shells that are embedded in resin for decoration.

**17. Alcohol Inks:** Colorants used to create effects like cells, lacing, or dreamy swirls. Alcohol-based and highly pigmented.

**18. Mica Powder:** A shimmery, powder-based pigment that gives resin a pearlescent or metallic look.

**19. Yellowing:** The discoloration that can happen to resin over time due to UV exposure or heat. High-quality resins contain UV inhibitors to slow this process.

**20. Sticky or Soft Cure:** A result of incorrect mixing ratio, under-mixing, or poor curing conditions. The resin remains tacky or never fully hardens.

**21. Fish Eyes:** Small craters or spots in a resin surface caused by contaminants like oil, dust, or moisture.

**22. Layering:** Pouring resin in stages to build up depth, prevent overheating, or add effects in separate steps.

**23. Flash Cure:** When resin cures too quickly, often due to high temperatures or excessive amounts. Can lead to cracking, heat damage, or cloudiness.

**24. UV Resin:** A type of resin that cures instantly under UV light. Best for tiny projects like jewelry, but not suitable for large pours.

**25. Finishing:** The final step in resin work, including sanding, polishing, or adding a clear topcoat for a smooth, glossy surface.

**Beginner Tip:** Bookmark this glossary or print it out for quick reference. It'll come in handy the next time you're stuck between a soft cure and a sticky situation.