



LOCTITE® 3873

July 2025

Product description

LOCTITE® 3873 provides the following product characteristics:

Technology	Acrylic
Chemical type	Acrylic ester
Appearance (uncured)	Light grey opaque thixotropic fluid with no visible bubbles ^{LMS}
Components	One component - requires no mixing
Viscosity	High
Cure	Activator
Application	Bonding

LOCTITE® 3873 is a self-shimming, thermally conductive adhesive. When used with Activator 7387™, it cures rapidly to form a high strength, high modulus, thermoset acrylic polymer. A uniform bond line thickness of 0.127 mm results from the incorporation of solid glass spheres. Recommended applications include the bonding of various heat generating devices (power devices) to thermal spreaders.

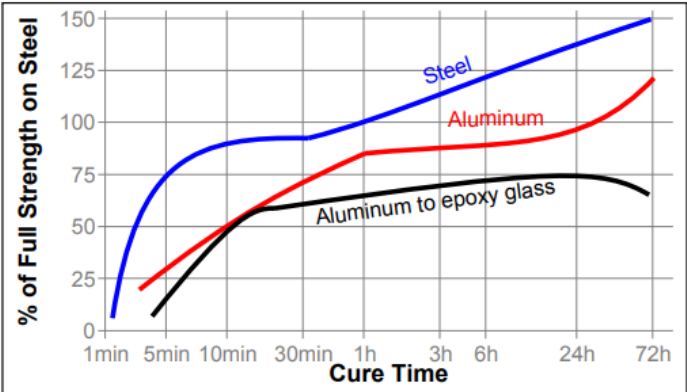
Typical properties of uncured material

Specific gravity @ 25°C	2.08
Flash point - see SDS	
Viscosity, Brookfield - HBT, 25 °C, mPa·s (cP):	
Spindle TB, speed 0.5 rpm, helipath	750,000 to 2,000,000 ^{LMS}
Spindle TB, speed 5.0 rpm, helipath	200,000 to 600,000 ^{LMS}

Typical curing performance

Cure speed vs. substrate

The rate of cure will depend on the substrate used. The graph below shows the shear strength developed with time on grit blasted steel lap shears compared to different materials and tested according to ISO 4587. (Activator 7387™ applied to one surface)



Typical properties of cured material

Cured for 24 hours @ 70°C, followed by 2 days @ RT

Physical properties

Coefficient of Thermal Expansion, ISO 11359-2, K ⁻¹ :	76×10 ⁻⁶
Glass transition temperature, °C	49

Cured for 24 hours @ 70°C, followed by 7 days @ RT

Physical properties

Coefficient of Thermal Conductivity, ISO 8302, W/(m·K)	1.25
Shore Hardness, ISO 868, Durometer D	72
Elongation, at break, ISO 527-3, %	3.2
Tensile Strength, at break, ISO 527-3	N/mm ² (psi) 9.7 (1,400)
Young's modulus	N/mm ² (psi) 850 (123,250)

Cured @ RT

Electrical properties

Volume resistivity, IEC 60093, Ω·cm	4.3×10 ¹⁴
Surface resistivity, IEC 60093, Ω	3.8×10 ¹⁴
Dielectric breakdown strength, IEC 60243-1, kV/mm	23.62

After 1 week @ 85°C / 85% RH

Electrical properties

Volume resistivity, IEC 60093, Ω·cm	1.5×10 ¹⁴
Surface resistivity, IEC 60093, Ω	2.6×10 ¹³
Dielectric breakdown strength, IEC 60243-1, kV/mm	3.54



Typical performance of cured material

After 7 days @ 22°C, Activator 7387™ on 2 sides
Lap Shear Strength, ISO 4587:

Steel	N/mm ²	14.7
	(psi)	(2,130)
Aluminum	N/mm ²	9.5
	(psi)	(1,380)

After 24 hours @ 22°C, Activator 7387™ on 1 side

Lap Shear Strength, ISO 4587:

Steel	N/mm ²	≥11.7 ^{LM}
	(psi)	(≥1,696)

Typical environmental resistance

Cured for 1 week @ 22°C, Activator 7387™ on 2 sides

Hot strength

Tested at temperature

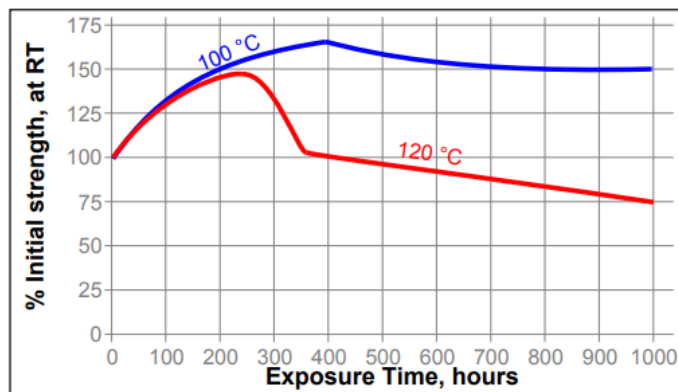
Shear strength

Lap Shear Strength, ISO 4587:

Steel			
@50°C	N/mm ²	14.7	
	(psi)	(2,130)	
@100°C	N/mm ²	8	
	(psi)	(1,160)	
@125°C	N/mm ²	5.6	
	(psi)	(815)	
Aluminum			
@50°C	N/mm ²	11.8	
	(psi)	(1,720)	
@100°C	N/mm ²	6.5	
	(psi)	(940)	
@125°C	N/mm ²	4.2	
	(psi)	(610)	
Aluminum to G-10 epoxyglass			
@50°C	N/mm ²	8	
	(psi)	(1,160)	
@100°C	N/mm ²	6.2	
	(psi)	(900)	
@125°C	N/mm ²	2.6	
	(psi)	(380)	

Heat aging

Aged at temperature indicated and tested @ 22°C.

**General information**

For safe handling information on this product, consult the Safety Data Sheet (SDS).

Where aqueous washing systems are used to clean the surfaces before bonding, it is important to check for compatibility of the washing solution with the adhesive. In some cases these aqueous washes can affect the cure and performance of the adhesive.

This product is not normally recommended for use on plastics (particularly thermoplastic materials where stress cracking of the plastic could result). Users are recommended to confirm compatibility of the product with such substrates.

Direction of use

1. For best performance bond surfaces should be clean and free from grease.
2. Use applicator to apply the activator to the surface to be bonded.
3. After the solvent evaporates, the active ingredients will appear wet, and will remain active for up to 2 hours after application. Contamination of the surface before bonding should be prevented.
4. Apply adhesive to the unactivated surface.
5. Where bond gaps are large (up to a maximum of 0.5 mm), or faster cure speed is required, Activator 7387 should be applied to both surfaces. Parts should be assembled immediately (within 1 minute).
6. Secure the assembly, and wait for the adhesive to fixture (approximately 5 minutes) before any further handling. Full cure occurs in 4 - 24 hours.
7. The amount of adhesive applied to the part or heat sink should be limited to the amount necessary to fill the bond and just enough to give a small fillet.
8. The dispensing or application of the adhesive should be done as to minimize air entrapment within the bondline.

Loctite material specification^{LMS}

LMS dated May 22, 1998. Test reports for each batch are available for the indicated properties. LMS test reports include selected QC test parameters considered appropriate to specifications for customer use. Additionally, comprehensive controls are in place to assure product quality and consistency. Special customer specification requirements may be coordinated through Henkel Quality.



Storage

Store product in the unopened container in a dry location. Storage information may be indicated on the product container labeling.

Optimal storage: 2°C to 8°C. Storage below 2°C or greater than 8°C can adversely affect product properties.

Material removed from containers may be contaminated during use. Do not return product to the original container. Henkel cannot assume responsibility for product which has been contaminated or stored under conditions other than those previously indicated. If additional information is required, please contact your local Henkel representative.

Conversions

$(^{\circ}\text{C} \times 1.8) + 32 = ^{\circ}\text{F}$

$\text{kV/mm} \times 25.4 = \text{V/mil}$

$\text{mm} / 25.4 = \text{inches}$

$\mu\text{m} / 25.4 = \text{mil}$

$\text{N} \times 0.225 = \text{lb}$

$\text{N/mm} \times 5.71 = \text{lb/in}$

$\text{N/mm}^2 \times 145 = \text{psi}$

$\text{MPa} \times 145 = \text{psi}$

$\text{N}\cdot\text{m} \times 8.851 = \text{lb}\cdot\text{in}$

$\text{N}\cdot\text{m} \times 0.738 = \text{lb}\cdot\text{ft}$

$\text{N}\cdot\text{mm} \times 0.142 = \text{oz}\cdot\text{in}$

$\text{mPa}\cdot\text{s} = \text{cP}$

Disclaimer

The information provided in this Technical data sheet (TDS) including the recommendations for use and application of the product are based on our knowledge and experience of the product as at the date of this TDS. The product can have a variety of different applications as well as differing application and working conditions in your environment that are beyond our control. Henkel is, therefore, not liable for the suitability of our product for the production processes and conditions in respect of which you use them, as well as the intended applications and results. We strongly recommend that you carry out your own prior trials to confirm such suitability of our product. Any liability in respect of the information in the Technical data sheet or any other written or oral recommendation(s) regarding the concerned product is excluded, except if otherwise explicitly agreed and except in relation to death or personal injury caused by our negligence and any liability under any applicable mandatory product liability law.

In case products are delivered by Henkel Belgium NV, Henkel Electronic Materials NV, Henkel Nederland BV, Henkel Technologies France SAS and Henkel France SA please additionally note the following:

In case Henkel would be nevertheless held liable, on whatever legal ground, Henkel's liability will in no event exceed the amount of the concerned delivery.

In case products are delivered by Henkel Colombiana, S.A.S. the following disclaimer is applicable:

The information provided in this Technical Data Sheet (TDS) including the recommendations for use and application of the product are based on our knowledge and experience of the product as at the date of this TDS. Henkel is, therefore, not liable for the suitability of our product for the production processes and conditions in respect of which you use them, as well as the intended applications and results. We strongly recommend that you carry out your own prior trials to confirm such suitability of our product. Any liability in respect of the information in the Technical Data Sheet or any other written or oral recommendation(s) regarding the concerned product is excluded, except if otherwise explicitly agreed and except in relation to death or personal injury caused by our negligence and any liability under any applicable mandatory product liability law.

In case products are delivered by Henkel Corporation, or Henkel Canada Corporation, the following disclaimer is applicable:

The data contained herein are furnished for information only and are believed to be reliable. We cannot assume responsibility for the results obtained by others over whose methods we have no control. It is the user's responsibility to determine suitability for the user's purpose of any production methods mentioned herein and to adopt such precautions as may be advisable for the protection of property and of persons against any hazards that may be involved in the handling and use thereof. In light of the foregoing, **Henkel Corporation specifically disclaims all warranties expressed or implied, including warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, arising from sale or use of Henkel Corporation's products. Henkel Corporation specifically disclaims any liability for consequential or incidental damages of any kind, including lost profits.** The discussion herein of various processes or compositions is not to be interpreted as representation that they are free from domination of patents owned by others or as a license under any Henkel Corporation patents that may cover such processes or compositions. We recommend that each prospective user test his proposed application before repetitive use, using this data as a guide. This product may be covered by one or more United States or foreign patents or patent applications.

Trademark usage

Except as otherwise noted, all trademarks in this document are trademarks of Henkel Corporation in the U.S. and elsewhere. ® denotes a trademark registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Reference 2

For the most direct access to local sales and technical support visit: <https://www.henkel-adhesives.com>.