

# LUBRICANTS

LUBE TYPE	BEST USES	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<b>All-purpose lube</b>	Frees up lightly rusted tools and dissolves light rust. Lubricates light-duty mechanisms like drawer slides and hinges. Dissolves some adhesives and removes scuff marks from floors. Removes pressure-sensitive adhesive labels.	Safe for wood, metal and plastic. Works fast. Dissolves gummed-up old lube and relubricates. Flows quickly and penetrates deep into tight spaces. Protects against corrosion.	Lubrication and rust protection don't last long—you may have to reapply frequently. Not for use on rubber products. Not for heavy loads or high-torque applications. Attracts and retains dust and dirt. Works very slowly to free up nuts and bolts.
<b>Dry PTFE lube</b>	Light-load lubrication for drawer slides, rollers, hinges, hand tools, window tracks/mechanisms, latches and lock cylinders.	Won't gather dust or dirt. Once solvent evaporates, product stays in place (won't drip). Safe for wood, metal, most types of plastic and rubber.	No corrosion protection. Not for heavy loads or high-torque applications.
<b>Spray silicone</b>	Light-load lubrication for things that slide or roll—drawer slides, hinges, hand tools, window tracks/mechanisms, electrical connectors, weather stripping, etc. Prevents sticking on mower decks and snow blower chutes.	Slipperiest of all lubes. Repels liquid water (not water vapor). Stays wet and continues to spread with every sliding movement.	Remains tacky and holds dust and dirt. No corrosion protection. Once applied, the surface is unpaintable. Overspray makes floors dangerously slippery.
<b>Lithium grease</b>	Medium- to high-load applications like axles, rollers, bearings, spinning shafts on shop and garden equipment, and hinges that carry a heavy load. Any lubrication job where the lube must stay in place.	Lasts far longer than oil. Stays in place and doesn't drip. Aerosol versions allow grease to seep into tight places so you don't have to disassemble items to apply grease. Protects against corrosion.	Remains tacky and holds dust and dirt. Washes off in heavy rain.
<b>Marine grease</b>	Trailer wheel bearings, shafts, rollers and gears immersed in water and continually exposed to the elements. Prevents rust and seizing of metal parts.	Handles high loads and torque. Stays in place. Most water-resistant of any grease.	Remains tacky and holds dust and dirt.
<b>Synthetic grease</b>	High-load, high-torque lubricant for axles, bearings, gears or spinning shafts in power tools and equipment.	Lowest friction of all greases. Most resistant to breakdown under high heat. Stays in place. Dissipates heat well.	Remains tacky and holds dust and dirt. Most expensive of all consumer-type greases.
<b>Chain lube</b>	Bicycle, motorcycle and scooter drive chains. Garage door opener chain and outdoor power equipment chains.	Penetrates deep into roller links when first applied. Becomes tack-free and sling-free once dry, so it holds far less dust and dirt than other lubes.	Doesn't spread once dry. May harm plastic or rubber (check the label before spraying chains that contain nonmetal parts).
<b>Garage door lube</b>	Garage door hinges, rollers, cables, reels and springs.	Penetrates, lubricates and protects against corrosion. Less tacky, so less likely to hold dirt.	May harm plastic or rubber parts.
<b>Penetrating oil</b>	Frees up rusty tools, tracks, slides, nuts and bolts.	Fastest option to break up rust and free fasteners. Dissolves grease and old, gummy lubricant.	Not a good permanent lubricant. Some formulas may dissolve paint or damage finishes.