

Subject: : Fly Tying

Topic: : Can Material go bad ?

Re: Can Material go bad ?

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URL:

In my experience, natural material tends to hold up well. Rubber synthetics, like "scud-back" latex and rubber leg material seems to become brittle after a couple years (I keep my materials in the dark but I'd guess that UV really speeds up the decay). I have some peacock herl and hackle feathers that seem to have become brittle and broke when I tried to wind 'em but I'm not sure if it was age or just a bad batch. Most of my hackle material is at least 10 years old and I have several Metz necks that are over 25 years old and the feathers from these necks are still fine. Some of my fur swatches are probably over fifty years old (trapped by grandparents etc) and the material still works fine.

Anyway, don't throw the old stuff away. Try some it and if, after a few tries it proves bad, then discard that particular batch or neck.....but don't dump all of it. Most of it should be fine unless moths or bugs have found it (I've never had that problem).

Now, that old jar of head cement? 'Nother story altogether. 😊