

## Magnetic Media - Video

Problems	Identification	Remedies
<p><b>Sticky Shed Syndrome (SSS)</b>  <i>Breakdown of the tape binder.            Also referred to as binder hydrolysis.</i></p>	<p>Tape smells like wax or crayons. Oxide may be shedding from tape backing and may shed off onto the various parts of equipment when played back. You may also hear the tape squeal when played back.</p>	<p>Some practitioners bake tape at low temperatures for long periods of time. Others make use of dehydrating equipment or dessicant compounds in order to remove moisture from sticky tapes.</p>
<p><b>Vinegar Syndrome</b>  <i>The breakdown in the substrate of acetate tape which produces acetic acid.</i></p>	<p>The presence of acetic acid will smell like vinegar. Tapes may also exhibit signs of shrinkage and brittleness.</p>	<p>This is more common in audio tape and film. Videotape is less likely to have an acetate base. There is no cure for vinegar syndrome. Transfer tapes as soon as possible. Do not bake.</p>
<p><b>Physical Damage</b>  <i>Of the container or cassette cartridge. May also notice damage of tape.</i></p>	<p>Broken cassette or bent reel. May notice edge damage on open-reel tape if not properly spooled on reel. For cassettes, may also see physical distortion of tape.</p>	<p>Re-house tape.</p>
<p><b>Oxide Loss and Delamination</b>  <i>Exhibits similar symptoms of sticky shed.</i></p>	<p>Tapes will become sticky and clog heads. May occur with cassettes and DATs.</p>	<p>This is not sticky shed. Do not bake tapes. Transfer as soon as possible and seek professional help to do so if needed.</p>
<p><b>Blocking/Pinning</b>  <i>Adjacent layers of tape may stick together in large or small portions.</i></p>	<p>Layers will adhere to each other upon playback. May occur with analog cassettes and DATs.</p>	<p>May cause delamination. Seek professional help from an Audio-Video Preservation Specialist.</p>
<p><b>Uneven Tape Pack</b>  <i>Usually occurs when tape is over-tensioned either because it is sticky or something has obscured the tape path.</i></p>	<p>Tape does not lay flat around the hub. It appears stacked or at uneven heights. Or it may appear wavy in sections.</p>	<p>Carefully re-spool tape onto a new hub. This may require careful hand-winding or the use of a cleaner for less fragile materials.</p>
<p><b>Detached Leader</b>  <i>Many times the leader becomes detached from the tape or tape hub.</i></p>	<p>Tape will not play in deck.</p>	<p>If equipped to do so, re-splice where appropriate.</p>
<p><b>Mold or Fungus</b>  <i>Usually mold appears because moisture is present</i></p>	<p>Powdery white substance that appears to grow or spread on tape or housing</p>	<p>Do not handle the tape because mold and fungus can be serious health hazards. Seek professional help.</p>

A thorough inspection should be performed before playing back recordings.