



The Finishing Touch

LACQUER FISH EYE KILLER

"Fish Eyes" or "craters" in the clear finish coats is a major problem with furniture refinishing shops. Fish eyes appear as small, cratered areas in lacquer finish, much like the surface appearance of oil and water after mixing.

There are various sources of wood contamination that create Fish eye problems for refinishing shops and, to a lesser extent, cabinet shops. Occasionally some Fish eyes are caused by excessive moisture in the wood or oil leakage in spray equipment. The most prevalent source of these problems is the use of silicone furniture polish used in the maintenance of the previous finish.

The silicone in these polishes can penetrate deep into the pores of the wood, making it extremely difficult to remove. The best method of removing silicone is to use a good quality Methylene Chloride type stripper, then rinsing the wood surface with lacquer thinner or other strong solvent. Even this method is not the "cure all" to the problem, since a small amount of silicone left embedded in the wood pores can cause fish eye/cratering.

Another problem with silicone contamination is that it does not affect base coats of stain or wood fillers, therefore the problem does not surface until the refinisher applies the clear top coat.

Silicone contamination is so common in furniture refinishing that in many refinishing shops it has become standard procedure to add anti-cratering additives in all the sealers and top coats in anticipation of Fish eye problems.

M. L. CAMPBELL FISH EYE KILLER WR-5

A full-strength 100% silicone additive, requiring only minimum amounts (1/5 oz per gallon of sealer or top coat), will correct most fish eye/cratering problems. Many competitive brands of additive are diluted with solvent and require the use of larger amounts of additives to produce the same results. WR-5 can be used in both lacquers, solvent type enamels and varnish.

M. L. CAMPBELL LATEX ANTI-CRATERING ADDITIVES WR-7

Water Borne finishes are subject to the same problems of fish eye/cratering when applied over silicone contaminated wood as solvent finishes. M. L. Campbell offers a full-strength Anti-Cratering Additive for products. The addition of 1/5 oz. per gallon in Water Borne sealers and clear coats will cure most problems of fish eye/cratering. This product can also be used in all types of Water Borne products, both clear and pigmented.

NOTE: **WR-502 Water Borne Flow Additive can also be used as a Fish Eye Killer in Water Borne Coatings.**

CAUTION: **Fish eye killers are silicone. This is a case where you use the same material that caused a problem to cure the problem.**

Care should be taken that overspray does not come in contact with unfinished wood, as the overspray may contaminate it. Also, spray equipment must be thoroughly cleaned and flushed with lacquer solvents to avoid future contamination that could be caused by any residue of the additive left in the spray equipment.

FINISHING OVER A CRATERED SURFACE

If Fish eye craters appear in the base coat of finish, allow to dry, then sand smooth with a fine grit finishing paper. A fish eye additive should then be added to the next coat(s) applied.

ADDITIONAL USES OF FISH EYE ADDITIVES

Fish eye additives will also facilitate drying on "wet spots" created many times by improper surface preparation or neutralization of wax containing paint removers or other contaminants that retard and cause irregular drying of the finish.