

Where the Perfect Wood Finish Begins!



Finishing Tip

Using the right tack cloth

Oil and water don't mix. Woodworkers learn this because by simply using the wrong tack cloth, the finish can be destroyed and the work ruined. But there is both a reason and a simple solution.

Often, Mike, our finishing consultant, will meet a perplexed woodworker who thinks he or she is following all the directions to get a perfect finish. Yet little round circles, also known as fisheye, appear in the finish. So much time and energy has gone into a project and now, at the very end, it looks just awful. Detective Mike asks all the right questions and discovers that the woodworker is wiping between coats with the wrong tack cloth and contaminating the finish. Remember oil and water doesn't mix. So if the finisher is using a waterbased coating and wipes the wood between sanding with a cloth that has even tiny bits of oil in it, fisheye can appear when the next coat is applied. And it's also true that wiping with a damp cloth between solvent based coatings can also destroy the finish. A waterbased coating is a layer upon layer application. If there is solvent between the layers, the layers can't adhere. In some solvent based coatings, one layer burns into the previous layer. Water or dampness prevents the burn in.

So the finisher must know what is in the cloth being used. Mike's solution is to use micro fiber cloths. Micro fiber cloths contain no chemicals and pick up and hold 7 times the dust that ordinary cloths hold. The dust isn't pushed around on the wood. It is picked up and taken away.

http://www.thefinishingstore.com/micro_fiber.php