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Coatings Review

News and Updates from Your Source for Quality Wood Finishing Solutions

Rudd Company, Inc. - 1141 NW 50th St. Seattle, WA 98107 Tel: (206) 789-1000

Technical Tip - "Aging Gracefully" The Effects of Light on Woods & Coatings

All wood species are photosensitive and will undergo color changes when exposed to light. Some will yellow, while others may turn orange or pink. Dark woods can be bleached by sunlight. These color transformations cannot be fully prevented, but a little forethought in the finishing process can help minimize them. Many consumers of wood products are unaware of the appearance changes that can be expected over time. This may lead to eventual complaints and customer dissatisfaction. An understanding of the causes of these changes enables woodworkers to recognize potential problem situations and steer customers away from those choices.

The most dramatic color changes occur when the wood substrate is left unstained before finishing. In the worst of these scenarios, considerable color

"Applying stain will aid in protecting wood from light"

change may be seen after only a few days in sunlight. Applying stain will aid in protecting wood from light, as well as helping mask changes. However, light wood tones and white stains will not hide wood color-changes as well as the darker tone stains.

Clear coatings will not prevent wood color changes. In fact, some clear coatings yellow from light exposure and will exacerbate appearance changes in the wood. Coatings that may yellow over time should be avoided over white or light-colored stains and wood.

"Water-white" coatings (such as Rudd's Duracat-V, Duracat-V Plus and Catalast) do not yellow, but, once again, they will not stop the wood color changes. Non-yellowing sealers should be used under water-white finishes. UV absorbers can be added to coatings to help protect wood, but it should be remembered

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Health & Safety - Bonding & Grounding

Though this may seem elementary, bonding and grounding is an essential safety component when working with flammable liquids in a spray booth. Eliminating ignition sources such as sparking equipment, outlets, and

unapproved or unrated electrical wiring can be engineered when designing a spray booth, spray room, flammable liquids storage areas and mixing rooms. However, static electricity cannot be eliminated. A static spark in the presence

of flammable liquids and vapor can be dangerous and even deadly. Therefore, it is essential that static electricity be controlled.

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Health & Safety - Bonding & Grounding (Continued)

Static electricity is generated when electrons are transferred between dissimilar materials. This can happen when dissimilar objects come in contact and then separate; from the shearing effect of liquids, air or gasses flowing through pipes and hoses, from liquid free-fall during pouring or pumping, air entrainment during mixing and numerous other means.

A static spark can occur when there is a difference in the electrical potential of two materials and an electrical discharge jumps the gap between the materials. A tiny spark can be enough to start a flash fire or explosion in the presence of flammable vapor. Every effort should be made to minimize the build-up of static electricity.

“A tiny spark can be enough to start a flash fire or explosion in the presence of flammable vapor.”

Bonding and grounding are two of the primary ways to reduce static charge build-up. Bonding connects conductive equipment together to keep them at the same electrical potential. Grounding

connects conductive equipment to an earth grounding rod. A combination of bonding and grounding should be used for all dispensing containers; and all spraying, mixing, pumps and other transfer equipment. Additionally all stationary equipment such as the spray booth and exhaust system should be grounded.

Bonding and grounding cables should be regularly inspected for defects. Single point bonding and grounding clamps tend to make better contact through paint and are preferred over the "alligator" type of clamp. Also, test equipment frequently to ensure the bonding contacts are still in place and a connection to ground is maintained. Failure to maintain connection to ground could result in a static

spark and potential fire.

For more information or to speak to our Regulatory Compliance manager please call (800) 444-7833 and ask for KaLyn Burmeister.

Article Excerpt - The need for finishing SOPs

Finishers often ask the question: Do I really need a written Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)? The answer is yes! Every large and small shop needs an SOP for every process they perform, from sanding and surface preparation, clear through to gun cleanup and equipment maintenance.

What is a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)?

An SOP is a written document that describes the step-by-step instructions for the process to be performed along with the required list of materials and equipment necessary for the procedure.

In the wood finishing industry, manufacturers have often relied on what we refer to as “tribal knowledge” for the information base in the finishing room. In many situations, this tribal knowledge is the knowledge that one lead finisher or supervisor has acquired over the years, which may not be based on best practice standards or updated techniques.

Many manufacturers experience serious financial and production problems when the finisher with the tribal knowledge moves on or is unable to work. This may bring production to a standstill or severely compromise the quality of the product. Even if you do not lose your lead finisher, you may be losing money in your finishing department because of relying on tribal knowledge and not using a standardized procedure.

Who should write and use SOPs?

Every shop from large, 100-man shops down to the small, one-man shop, should have written procedures for every process in the finishing room. It may appear to be an overwhelming task and a waste of time and effort to write a procedure; however, if you commit to writing one SOP per month, in a few short months you will complete the procedures necessary to provide security to your business.

“...you may be losing money in your finishing department because of relying on tribal knowledge...”




What are the basic SOPs?

Here is a sample list of the most common SOPs that will be necessary to write for the finishing department:

- White wood sanding
- Stain and color development
- Glazes
- Sealer application
- Sealer sanding
- Gun setup
- Topcoat applications
- Spray equipment flush-out procedures
- Gun maintenance
- Quality control procedures

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True or False?

1. The average child in the USA will wear down 730 crayons by his 10th birthday.
2. Alfred Hitchcock didn't have a bellybutton
3. A pack-a-day smoker will lose approximately 2 teeth every 10 years.
4. 40 people are sent to the hospital for dog bites every minute.
5. Only seven per cent of the population are lefties.
6. Babies are born without knee caps. They don't appear until they are 2-6 years old.
7. The average housefly lives for one month. 
8. Most of us have eaten a spider in our sleep.
9. The real reason ostriches stick their head in the sand is to search for water.
10. The only 2 animals that can see behind itself without turning it's head are the rabbit and the parrot.
11. Sir Thomas Crapper invented the toilet.
12. The Eskimo language has over 100 words for snow. 
13. Mud throwing was an official event at the 1904 Olympics.
14. The ancient Sumerians worshiped Ninkasi, a goddess of beer. 

1. True 2. False 3. True 4. False 5. True 6. False 7. False 8. True 9. True 10. True 11. False 12. True 13. True 14. True

For a detailed answer to each of these questions visit www.ruddcompany.com

Technical Tip - "Aging Gracefully" The Effects of Light on Woods & Coatings (continued)

that their effectiveness usually lasts less than six months and only delays the inevitable effects of light.

Some coatings contain oils that will yellow in the absence of light. This is often seen inside drawers or on the backs of cabinet doors. Exposing these areas to light can reverse this type of coating yellowing, but



the film will yellow again when returned to darkness. Linseed oil is the most commonly used oil in the manufacture of wood finishes which behaves in this manner.

Ammonia, or its fumes, can also cause many coatings to yellow, so cleaners containing ammonia should be used with caution in the vicinity of wood finishes.

For additional information or for technical assistance please contact Peter Curtis in our Technical Department at (800) 444-7833.

Calendar Highlights Labor Day History

Monday, September 3rd: Rudd Company will be closed in observance of Labor Day. Freight companies will not deliver on Monday.



Regular customer service hours are Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 5:00pm PDT

The Labor Day holiday as we know it grew out of the efforts of labor unions over a century ago. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, records indicate the holiday was first proposed in



the late 19th century. Two men are credited with the original idea: Peter J. McGuire, a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor and Matthew McGuire, a machinist and secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York.



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Article Excerpt - The need for finishing SOPs (continued)

In each category you will need to write a procedure for each specific application.

How to write and what to include in an SOP

When writing an SOP, it is important to remember that you are not writing an essay. Describe each step of the process in the fewest words possible by condensing the information to the lowest common denominator to communicate the information. It is necessary to clearly think through the process so as to include all the critical information about the procedure, ensuring the SOP is complete.

We recommend that several process experts work as a team to develop the SOP. It is important to take into consideration everyone's input; however, you must base your decisions on what is the

best practice standard for performing the process and is in the best interest of the company.

As you review the process for documentation, you will have an excellent opportunity to re-evaluate how well the process is working.

Getting Started

The first step in writing a procedure is to define and describe the purpose of the SOP. You will then need to identify the equipment and materials required for the process and to identify and describe where the items are stored and located.

Next, you will need to write the steps to be performed before the process begins. All safety procedures should be clearly outlined in this preprocess procedure checklist.

The SOP should describe each step and be numbered accordingly. The SOP should include all instructions for product handling and storage.

As a final step in the SOP development process, you will need to verify the accuracy of the document.

When you are confident of the accuracy of the document, you may take a deep breath and congratulate yourself on a job well done.

Remember: An SOP is a living document. It will need to be updated when process and procedures are changed or upgraded. Also, don't forget to enforce the compliance of the procedure.

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