

**Please Route To:**

- ✓ Spray Shop Personnel
- ✓ Regulatory Manager
- ✓ Plant Manager
- ✓ Purchasing Agent

## Article Excerpt - Keep It Sealer Simple (continued)

yet leaving them in the bottom of the container is wasteful and creates more difficulty during the sanding operation.

The misunderstanding of sanding sealer's function concerns what the sanding sealer coat should accomplish. Some sprayers will spray two coats of sealer and then sand while others will spray one coat of sealer and then sand. Both methods cost money in coatings material, labor, and abrasives. It is true that the first coat should be level as possible so the additional layers of topcoat flow out flat thus creating a smooth looking finish using less topcoat and less labor to achieve the flat look.

The application sealer usually results in a flat coat unless the sanding gets too close to the original wood surface and then holes appear. When this happens what has really occurred is the sealer was not

thin enough to fill the pores and indentations of the wood substrate. The sealer was so viscous it bridged the pores and indentations. Then when sanding occurred the bridged areas were sanded away and the pores and indentations appeared as holes or indented sealer.

Sealer should be applied at a viscosity and temperature that allows it to fill the pores and indentations with a minimal amount of sealer on the flat areas of the substrate. Less sealer means less material cost, less sanding labor and less abrasives used. Well-stirred sanding sealer in the container has an even color look to the liquid.

Conversion varnishes often have their own catalyzed sealers designed specifi-

cally for that coating. These sealers, used in a purpose-built finishing system, provide the highest performance for the most demanding conditions. When using these products together, careful attention to

recoat intervals as well as application temperatures is important.

Make sure you understand the different types of sealers. Finally anyone sanding should

know ahead of time what type of sealer is being applied so the correct abrasives will be used.

*Article by Bruce Jackson and Greg Williams. Bruce Jackson is the production and finishing specialist at the Alabama Center for Advance Woodworking Technology and Greg Williams is employed by RPM Finishes Group. Excerpt from Modern Woodworking magazine, April 2008.*

**"Sealer should be applied at a viscosity [ ] that allows it to fill the pores.."**



### In This Issue:

- ◆ Technical Tip
- ◆ Notice
- ◆ Trivia Quiz
- ◆ Article Excerpt
- ◆ Calendar
- ◆ Highlights
- ◆ Announcements

# 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 - Identifying Fisheyes

Fisheyes are one of the most frustrating of all coating defects. Fisheyes are small, bowl shaped depressions resembling one of the moon's craters. They are usually circular and uniform in size. Sometimes a particle can be seen in the center of the fisheye. When this phenomenon occurs, the coating is crawling away from a particle, or area of low surface tension, and leaves a small uncoated area when dried. Before taking any corrective action, it is best to carefully analyze the finishing process to rule out other defects with an appearance similar to fisheyes and then determine the cause of the problem.

Three other common sources of craters to rule

out are:

1. Improperly dispersed additives caused by inadequate agitation or mixing of the coating;
2. Products used beyond their shelf life.
3. Bubbles in the seal coat that are broken during sanding and closely resemble craters when subsequent coats of finish are applied.

**"Fisheyes, however, are almost always related to some form of contamination."**

Fisheyes, however, are almost always related to some form of contamination. So before you can eliminate the problem, you must first hunt down the source.

Contaminants can be introduced in many ways. Hand lotions may cause fisheyes to form in areas where the substrate was handled. Residual dust from sanding and/or dirt can cause fish-eyes. Lubricants used on saws and other tools may cause craters from direct contact. Lubricants can also be introduced into the coating from pumps or transfer equipment. Or they can be even be carried in the air to the substrate if sprayed in the vicinity of

*Continued on page 2*

## Notice - Drum Bolt Configurations are Changing!

As shippers of hazardous materials (haz-mat) Rudd Company is required to follow very specific Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations that include among other things; required packaging, labeling, container marking, container filling restrictions, training and placarding. The regulations are so rigorous that we are required to tighten drum bolts to a specific torque re-

quirement, to use specific type and gauge of drum bolt, and to use specific types of tape to close certain rated boxes.

With the rigid DOT regulations in mind, I would like to notify you that drum closures on Rudd Company products are changing. In the past drums were closed with a

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## Notice - Drum Bolt Configurations are Changing! (Continued)

combination of a bolt and locking nut (Figure 1). The bolt used in this configuration was threaded to the head to the bolt

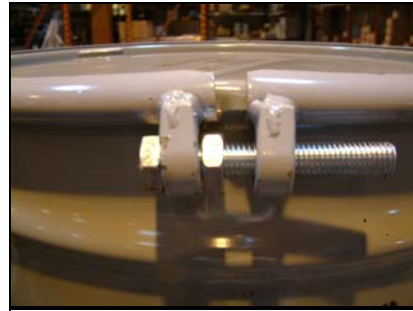


Figure 1 - Bolt and nut combination

The new configuration uses a shoulder bolt and does not have a locking nut (Figure 2). The new shoulder bolt has an unthreaded shoulder near the head of the bolt; the remainder of the bolt is threaded.

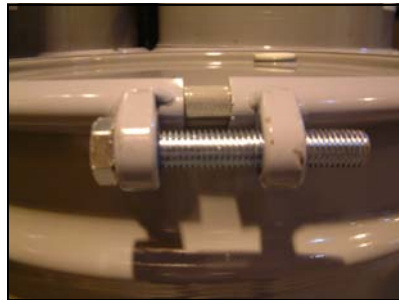


Figure 2 - Shoulder Bolt, no nut

When closing drums, insert the bolt into the larger unthreaded lug on the drum ring first and then through the threaded lug second. The unthreaded shoulder of the bolt will rest in the unthreaded lug. Tighten the bolt while hammering around the drum

ring with a rubber mallet to ensure the drum ring and drum lid are properly and tightly seated. Continue hammering and torquing until you have achieved a stable 60 feet pounds minimum torque.

### DO DOT HAZ-MAT REGULATIONS APPLY TO YOU?

The answer to this question is 'possibly.' DOT haz-mat regulations apply to you if you:

- ship empty drums that have haz-mat residue,
- ship haz-mat from your location to a customer or other location, or

repackage and ship haz-mat material.

Empty drums with haz-mat residue are considered to be full in transport. Empty drums must be:

- closed according the container guidelines meeting the minimum torque requirement,
- a 4 inch DOT flammable liquids label,
- proper shipping name,
- the correct UN number
- the name and address of either Rudd or your company.

Additionally, all empty drum shipments require a bill of lading with the proper shipping description.

*If you have questions regarding how DOT requirements apply to your business, contact Rudd Company's Regulatory Manager, KaLyn Burnmeister, at 1-800-444-7833 or kburnmeister@ruddcompany.com.*

equipment and spray area usually leads to discovery of the source of contamination.

If you're faced with fisheyes, or a different finishing defect, Rudd Company's Tech Services Department is always available to assist you in identifying the problem, determining the cause and reviewing options for corrective action.

*For additional information or technical support, please contact Rudd Company's Technical Service Department at 1-800-444-7833 or techsupport@ruddcompany.com*

## Technical Tip - Identifying Fisheyes (continued)

the spray booth.

When determining the actual source of the contamination, one must look at the entire finished piece. If the fisheyes are isolated to specific area, this points to localized contamination of the substrate. If the entire sprayed surface exhibits defects, the coating may have become contaminated, or the substrate may have widespread contamination. When widespread fisheyes occur, the spray operator should then spray a different product or a different batch of the same product using the same equipment and substrate and determine if fisheyes are still present. If they are, it is likely that a contaminant has been introduced to the spray system or substrate. A thorough examination of the

## Trivia Quiz - The NEW 7 Wonders of the World

In July, 2007 the New 7 Wonders Foundation announced the winners of its popularity poll "The New 7 Wonders of the World" in Lisbon, Portugal.

Can you match these winners with their corresponding countries?

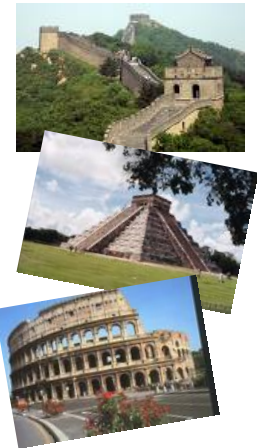
*Answers to the Trivia Quiz can be found at [www.ruddcompany.com](http://www.ruddcompany.com)*



Chichen Itza  
Christ the Redeemer  
Colosseum  
Great Wall of China  
Machu Picchu  
Petra  
Taj Majal

Great Pyramid of Gyza (This 8th wonder was given honorary status as the last remaining ancient wonder of the world.)

India  
Egypt  
Mexico  
Peru  
Jordan  
China  
Italy  
Brazil



## Article Excerpt - Keep It Sealer Simple

Sealers are among the most misunderstood coatings when it comes to function and application techniques. We read of coatings that are "self sealing", but see that a sealer is offered for that same product. If it is "self sealing", why would we want a sealer? Most coatings are self-sealing. Remember that the characteristics we desire in a sealer and a topcoat are different. A good, abrasion-resistant topcoat typically does not make the best sealer. Using a self-sealing product has the advantage of requiring fewer cans on the shelf, but may require more work to get the same result as you would with a proper sealer.

Sealers contain solids to not only assist in making the substrate non-absorbent but to make leveling by sanding easier, tie or bond the next coat, act as a barrier, wash coat, and even a blotch preventer.

**"A good, abrasion-resistant topcoat typically does not make the best sealer."**

Sanding sealer needs to be stirred continuously. When it is first opened it is translucent. Stirring lifts and breaks up the solids in the bottom of the container while continuous stirring stops the solids from settling back to the bottom of the container. Since the cost associated with sanding sealer is tin the solids, letting them settle or worse

*Continued on page 4*

## Calendar Highlights

### Friday, July 4th:

Rudd Company will be closed in observance of Independence Day.



Freight companies will not deliver on Friday.

### Monday, September 1st:

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*

## Announcements

We are sad to announce the retirement of Rudd Company's one and only Gail Holt! Gail held several positions during her 22 years at Rudd Company, most recently as Customer Service Manager. Her customers remember her for her outstanding customer service, product knowledge and sunny disposition. Please join us in wishing her happy trails!

