

Professional tip

Bubbles in shellac surfaces, possible causes

Treatment suggestions

1. The formation of air bubbles can easily occur, for example, when the shellac is applied too thickly or a second layer is applied without respecting the drying time.

2. The formation of **air bubbles near windows** in case of strong heating can occur when an oil or a natural resin oil was applied very thickly or/and without a primer. The shellac film dries too quickly on the surface and the expanding alcohol cannot escape.

3. **Gas bubbles in the area of the medullar rays** are possible if in case of fatty woods, for example Lime tree, the alcohol of the shellac reacts with the wood constituents.

4. **If gas bubbles appear close to joints or pore openings in case of woods with big pores** such as walnut, ash, chestnut or mahogany, it may indicate that water vapor is escaping from the glue or that the moisture content is too high (over 14 - 15%).

We therefore recommend to treat these types of wood with an impregnating oil, for example ARDVOS Universal Wood Oil N° 266 or KUNOS Natural Oil Sealer N° 244, and to wipe off the supernatant oil 10-15 minutes after the application.

5. **If too moist woods are lacquered with shellac, bubbles may occur**, for example when furniture are stored in the cellar at 90% humidity and the wood moisture has risen to about 22%. Remedy?

Only after one week of storage in normal air conditions, the wood of this piece of furniture will have a moisture content of 15% and can be easily coated with a shellac varnish.

6. Cracking in shellac films

If a piece of furniture is stored for a long time at a different location with a high humidity (cellar, garage or during a move in an unheated warehouse) and at temperatures below 15° C, this may cause a conspicuous change in dimension of wide wooden parts such as tabletops and front doors. Shellac doors are brittle at temperatures below 15° C and even tear in case of large dimensional change.

Please refer to the technical data sheets on our website: www.livos.de

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