

Tannin Pull and Unwelcome Color Change

Various wood species contain natural tannins and extractives which can cause discoloration.

PROBLEM: Color liquefied into the finish. On white oak there can be orange, green or brown stains. With some exotic woods, color can be pulled from board to board and pulled from dark field across light borders. On white floors they can show as purple, black or brown stains.

WHY: Wood is made up of many active chemicals. One of those chemicals, tannin is most prevalent in white oak and is very water soluble. Water from wet wood, high humidity and water borne finishes can make the tannin move and draw it to the surface. If there is iron present in the wood or metal from nails then a chemical reaction occurs that creates the color.

PREVENTION: To prevent these tannin marks avoid; puddling the finish, application trails, and applicator set marks. Even coats are critical, too much or not enough overlap in the working puddle can leave uneven areas on the floor or streaks. Additionally, the preparation of the floor can affect the appearance of the finish. High spots and/or cupping can also leave uneven color. Take extra care in the cleaning of the dust on a high tannin content floor. If the wood dust builds up in the application puddle of the finish, even a light applicator mark can leave a darker layer of finish in a given area. Thin coats of a water base sealer will help prevent the appearance of these marks.

SOLUTION: Basic Coatings Lock 'N Seal™ and Raw™ Sealer are designed to help prevent tannin pull. Not only during application of the sealer, but also during application of the finish coats. For Lock 'N Seal, we recommend 1-2 coats on most species, however for white oak or exotics, we recommend 2 coats. For Raw Sealer, 1 coat is recommended for a natural raw look, while 2 coats will offer a slight white-wash look.

REPAIR: Small areas can be scraped and repaired, but general problems over the whole floor will have to be re-sanded and re-finished.

Please refer to current Technical Data Sheet for most up-to-date information. Please feel free to reach out to our Basic Coatings technical experts at 1-800-441-1934.