

Common Shellac Myths

From The:

Zinsser booklet revised 2004, first published in 1913 and reprinted seventeen times throughout the years.

Myth:

Shellac is made from bugs or bug droppings.

FACT:

Shellac is a resin secreted by the lac insect to form a cocoon, much like a silk worm. It takes about 100,000 lac bugs to make 1 lb. of shellac resin.

Myth:

A shellac finish turns white when water touches it.

FACT:

Fresh shellac is remarkably water-resistant and, in most cases, will stay clear after hours of exposure to water, making it a great finish for most interior surfaces, including woodwork, trim, doors, cabinets, paneling, floors (yes, floors!) and furniture.

Myth:

Shellac scratches easily and is very brittle.

FACT:

Shellac is a durable finish that is much less brittle than lacquer and does not scratch as easily. Unlike polyurethane, a damaged shellac finish can be easily touched up or renewed by applying another coat.

Myth:

Shellac turns an ugly dark color as it ages.

FACT:

Shellac is UV-resistant and does not yellow or darken with age. The dark shellac that people see in older homes is a less-refined version of shellac that either was naturally dark or was tinted by contractors when dark wood colors were preferred in the early 20th century.

Myth:

Shellac is incompatible with other finishes.

FACT:

Shellac will adhere tenaciously when applied over almost any other type of finish. When used as a sealer under certain polyurethanes, regular shellac may not be compatible because it contains a small amount of natural wax. To seal wood before applying polyurethane and other finishes, Zinsser developed Bulls Eye® *SealCoat™* a shellac-base universal sealer that is 100% wax-free.

Myth:

Shellac is an old-fashioned, outdated finish.

FACT:

Shellac has more modern features and benefits than any other wood finish in the world.



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Shellac's Great Properties

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Shellac has such remarkable properties that if it were just recently discovered, it would be hailed as the miracle finish of the 21st century.

- **All-natural –**

Shellac is an all-natural resin that is harvested regularly and is, therefore, a renewable resource.

- **Mild alcohol odor –**

Shellac is dissolved in denatured ethyl alcohol. It has a mild, antiseptic odor that dissipates quickly as the product dries.

- **Easy to use –**

Shellac is user-friendly and virtually goof-proof. It can be applied with a brush, pad, sprayer or wiping cloth.

- **Super-fast dry time –**

Shellac dries to the touch in MINUTES and, in most cases, can be sanded or recoated in little more than half an hour.

- **Cold temperature application –**

Unlike other finishes, shellac can be applied in cold temperatures (40° F. and below) without concern over proper drying and curing.

- **Non-toxic / hypoallergenic –**

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration has certified shellac as a protective glaze for candy and pharmaceuticals.

- **Non-yellowing/non-darkening –**

Shellac is UV-resistant and will not yellow or darken with age, unlike oil-base finishes.

- **Enhances the beauty of wood grain –**

Shellac brings out the rich warmth of wood grain. Finished surfaces look soft and natural, not plastic-coated.

- **Sticks to glossy surfaces and finishes –**

Shellac is prized by everyone who uses it for its incredible adhesion. It will stick to just about anything.

- **Dried film is impervious to odors –**

Two or more coats of shellac will seal in any kind of odor in any type of porous surface.

- **Stain sealer –**

Shellac is one of the world's most effective stain and knot sealers. Another reason why we use it to make B-I-N® Primer-Sealer.

- **Easy to touch up and recoat –**

Unlike other finishes, shellac can be easily touched up if it is scratched or worn; a new coat of shellac melts itself into the existing coat.

- **Easy to clean up or remove –**

Shellac is dissolved by household ammonia as well as alcohol, making it very easy to clean brushes and other tools. Best of all, a shellac finish looks great! Shellac imparts a clear, hard film with a high gloss that can be buffed to a glowing, velvety sheen. Bulls Eye® Shellac in liquid and aerosol form is still the craftsman's choice as a finish for woodwork and as a protective sealer for countless uses.

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