

# Finish Defects During Production

## Finish Defect #3: Common terms are Fisheyes, Voids, Holidays, and Cratering

By Bruce Jackson

*This is the third installment in a series of articles of common finish defects by Bruce Jackson, production and finishing specialist at the Alabama Center for Advanced Woodworking Technology.*

Look at the photograph and you will see that the board appears to have open spots or voids. The stain, sealer, and topcoat will not flow over these small areas on the board because they are most likely contaminated with wax, silicone, oil, or grease.



### CAUSE

### CURE

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| Office cleaning supplies containing silicones                     | Change cleaning supplies to a non Silicone Based material  |
| Parts dividers such as cardboard or plastic                       | Check for recycled paper products as they may have wax included from process   |
| Oily cleaning rags  | Provide clean rags or throwaway towels   |
| Oily exotic woods   | Clean machines after oily wood runs  |
| Aerosol cans around machines for lubrication containing silicones | Change to lubricant with no silicones  |
| Oil from air line lubricators in vicinity                         | Repair lubricators   |
| Hair sprays or various crèmes applied during production           | Review company policy  |
| Item sprayed and fisheyes appear                                  | Wash off and apply several dry or dusty coats before wet coat  |
| Item may have silicone and washing is not viable                  | Add to finish material "Fisheye" remover purchased from supplier or auto parts paint store. Check with your supplier first |

Finish Defects reduce the quality and increase the cost of a product. Understanding why the defects occur and how to correct the problem(s) eliminate reducing your profit. Correcting the problem by additional labor and materials after the fact is much more expensive than

finding the cause and correcting it. This is why an understanding of common production finish defects causes and cures helps the finish department employees. Please let your finish employees keep this page as a visual information record.