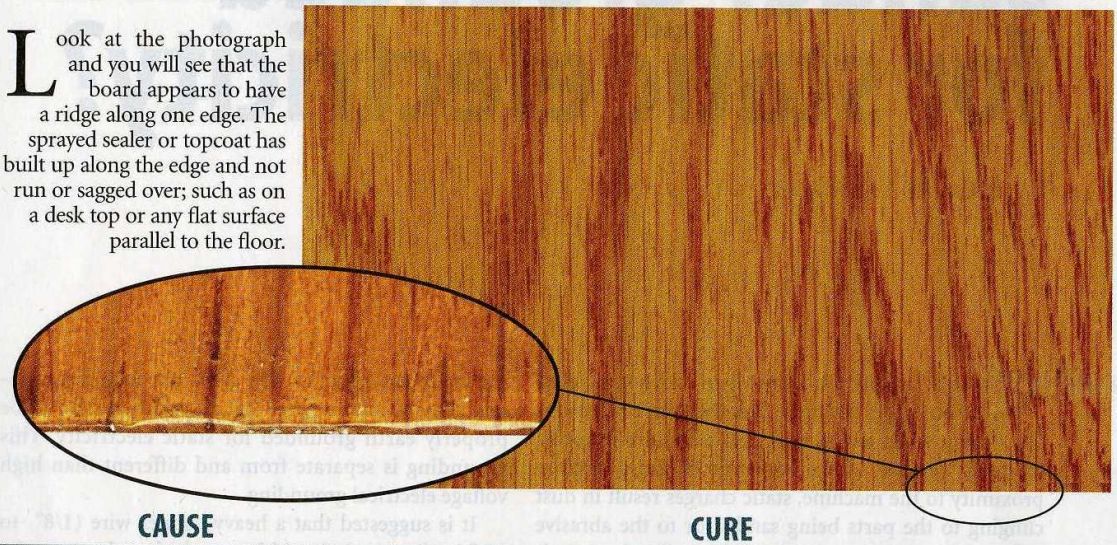
Finish Defects During Production

Finish Defect #4: Fat edge occurring during spray operations

By Bruce Jackson

This is the fourth 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 a ridge along one edge. The sprayed sealer or topcoat has built up along the edge and not run or sagged over; such as on a desk top or any flat surface parallel to the floor.



CAUSE	CURE
Gun is tilted at an angle and pushing material towards item edge. This would be similar to shoveling snow or using a push broom to sweep dirt; you end up with a pile of snow or dirt. In finishing you end up with a pile of sealer or topcoat.	Gun must be perpendicular to surface and not "pushing" material towards edge.
Viscosity is incorrect. The material is too thick.	Thin material to manufacturers recommended viscosity.
Too much fluid	Check adjustment of fluid delivery rate. Check if fluid tip is worn. Check size of tip orifice to material viscosity.
Temperature	Warm chilled or cold part.
Solvent mix	Have supplier check blend of solvents with possibility of introducing faster evaporating solvents.

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.