

My Conversion Varnish is Still Tacky. Now what?

From time to time, we get the call from a finisher, and it goes something like this...

“My Conversion Varnish coating isn’t drying and is still tacky. Why? And how do I fix it?”



The answer to Why:

- The coating was not catalyzed.
- The proper amount of catalyst was not mixed into the coating.

The answer to How do I fix it:

There are a few options to get the coating to properly dry and cure before stripping and refinishing become necessary

1. Recoat with the same *catalyzed* conversion varnish material.
 - Make sure the correct amount of catalyst stated in the directions has been mixed in.
 - Do not add extra catalyst.
 - If desired, you may SLIGHTLY thin the product with a compliant lacquer thinner.
2. If you don't have the same conversion varnish product available, you may try a catalyzed lacquer thinner.
 - Add the correct amount of the conversion varnish catalyst to one gallon of lacquer thinner.
 - Spray on a light coat and let it dry.
 - You may repeat if necessary.
 - This process may help the original conversion varnish coating react and dry.
3. If you have used an opaque (pigmented) conversion varnish and do not have any more of the product available, you may recoat with a clear conversion varnish that has been catalyzed with the proper amount of catalyst.

It is important that when you are recoating, you are very thorough and coat all edges, faces and frames so that there are no tacky spots when you are done.

If none of the options above solve the problem, it is time to strip and refinish.