

Pentacryl Directions "The Wood Stabilizer"

Pentacryl is a wood stabilizer used by woodcarvers and woodturners to keep green wood from cracking, checking and splitting during the drying process. When the wood is completely dry, it can be stained and finished with waterborne or oil-based finishes. PENTACRYL is non-toxic.

Directions: For best results, wood should be wet as in its green state. If the surface of the wood has dried out, wet surface thoroughly by soaking or wrapping in a wet towel for several hours. Use PENTACRYL at room temperature. Shake well before using and read directions completely.

There are two methods that can be used. METHOD #1 is to brush PENTACRYL on the wood. METHOD #2 is to soak the wood in a PENTACRYL solution. The brushing method is most preferable if the wood is to be carved over a period of time. The soaking method is recommended for small items that are to be carved in a short period of time.

Method #1 (Brushing): After carving is finished for the day, brush on repeated coats of PENTACRYL until the wood will no longer absorb anymore. Next, wrap the carving in a dampened cloth and cover with plastic. Repeat process after each day's carving. When carving is completed, periodically apply coatings of PENTACRYL again, until the wood will no longer absorb anymore. End grain areas require more applications of PENTACRYL due to higher absorption.

Method #2 (Soaking): The soaking method is recommended for small pieces that are to be carved in a short period of time, although it can be used for larger pieces. Be sure to keep wood damp prior to soaking with PENTACRYL. Place carved piece in a plastic, fiberglass or glass container (metal containers are not recommended). Be sure to cover entire piece with PENTACRYL (do not dilute). The allotted time for soaking should be 24 hours for each inch of thickness. After soaking the allotted time, drain and proceed to drying.

Drying: drying time varies depending on relative humidity, temperature, and type of

wood and size. Ideal drying conditions are 50-70°F with relative humidity at 40-60%. Do not dry in direct sunlight, extreme or direct heat, nor under 30% or over 70% relative humidity whenever possible.

Finishing: When the wood is determined dry, clean the surface with a mineral solvent or use SOLVITOL (a very safe, odorless solvent with a flash point above the combustible range of 200°F). Before staining or finishing, make sure surface is clean and dry.

Disclaimer: Being that wood is a natural material and is susceptible to varying degrees of shrinkage, reaction, deterioration and because of varying climatic conditions, varying experience of the user and may be applied under conditions beyond our control, as seller, we make no warranty expressed or implied as to this material or its use. All information stated here in is accurate to the best of our knowledge and is based on thorough testing.

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Pentacryl FAQ

Q: How long will it take for the wood to dry when using PENTACRYL? A: There is no way to give a specific answer to drying time. Drying time differs depending on the temperature, humidity, type of wood, and its thickness. If the piece is a turning that is finished thin, then it may be dry enough to finish in 2-3 weeks. If the piece is a carving that is large, it may take 1-3 years to completely dry. By displacing moisture in the wood, PENTACRYL helps to speed up the drying process.

Q: Can wood treated with PENTACRYL be finished with conventional finishes?

A: Yes. Wood treated with PENTACRYL can be finished with conventional finishes. Urethane varnishes, water borne varnishes, lacquers, tung oil, linseed oil, and waxes have all been successfully used. The wood can also be stained with aniline dyes or oil stains. The key factors are to be sure that the wood has thoroughly dried and to clean the surface of the wood with

mineral spirits, acetone, or lacquer thinner before finishing. (See SOLVITOL on product list for alternative solvent.)

Q: Can a colorant be added to PENTACRYL?

A: Yes. A colorant can be added to PENTACRYL. Aniline dyes, oil base dyes and stains, and pigments can be mixed with PENTACRYL. The amount used depends upon the desired effect.

Q: Does PENTACRYL absorb all the way through the wood?

A: Yes, Pentacryl does absorb all the way through the wood. The time it takes depend upon the type of wood and size of the piece. Pentacryl has recently been improved; it will now penetrate approximately 1 inch of end grain per minute. When using the brushing or spraying method, keep applying until the wood can no longer absorb anymore. In between applications, the wood should be wrapped in plastic to prevent evaporation of the moisture and Pentacryl. The moisture in the wood helps the penetration of Pentacryl. Keep in mind that most of the absorption is through the end grain.

Q: How much PENTACRYL does this take?

A: The amount of PENTACRYL the wood will absorb depends upon the type of wood. For very dense grained hardwoods, it will take as little as 1 ounce per board foot and for very soft open grained wood, it will take as much as 8 ounces per board foot.

Q: Does PENTACRYL have to be absorbed all the way through the wood to be effective?

A: PENTACRYL does not always have to be absorbed all the way through the wood to be effective. Some woods that are quite stable may only require several coatings to the end grain, while other woods with wild grain, tension, or those that are unstable such as fruitwoods, require full saturation. PENTACRYL will allow moisture to pass through it. The individual user will have to determine whether or not to completely saturate the wood.

Q: Can too much PENTACRYL be applied?

A: No. Too much PENTACRYL cannot be applied. The wood will absorb just so much. Any excess can be cleaned off the surface. Note: If using the soaking method, any PENTACRYL left over in the soak can be reused.

Q: Will wood treated with PENTACRYL weigh more when it is dry? A: The wood will weigh only slightly more when the wood is dry. A cubic foot of wood will weigh approximately 10-12 ounces more than wood that was untreated.

Q: Will turning and carving be easier with wood treated with PENTACRYL? A: Yes. The wood will turn and carve easier because PENTACRYL also acts as a lubricant until dry.

Q: Will PENTACRYL stabilize rotted or spalt wood? A: Yes. PENTACRYL will stabilize rotted or spalt wood. However, it will not harden soft areas.

Q: Does PENTACRYL reduce shrinkage and distortion? A: Yes. PENTACRYL does reduce the shrinkage by 1-2%. Distortion is also significantly reduced.

Q: Does PENTACRYL change the color of the wood? A: Pentacryl has been reformulated and will no longer react with Tannic Acid in wood. In some types of wood, this could cause darkening. Any color change is now insignificant.

Q: Can PENTACRYL treat fruitwoods? A: Yes. PENTACRYL can be used to treat fruitwoods. For thin turnings, no special precautions are necessary. For thick turnings or large carvings, the wood must be allowed to dry very slowly after treatment with PENTACRYL. Some methods we have found successful are:

1) After treatment and turning/carving, place the wood piece in a paper bag and seal it closed. Twice each day, open the bag for 1/2 hour intervals. Repeat this process until most of the moisture has dissipated.

2) Be sure drying conditions are not too hot or too dry. Ideal drying conditions are between 60°-70°F and 50-55% relative humidity.

3) Another alternative is to let the piece dry in the freezer. The water molecules will evaporate in the freezer. This method works especially well with wild-grained woods. First, completely treat the wood with PENTACRYL as per the original instructions (PENTACRYL will also prevent swelling and cracking in the freezer). After the wood has been thoroughly treated, set it in a cardboard box and place the box in a freezer. The length of time in the freezer will depend upon the size of the wood and temperature and humidity of the freezer. A moisture meter can be used to periodically check the piece for dryness.

Q: Can wood that has been treated with PENTACRYL be glued? A: Yes. Wood treated with PENTACRYL can be glued. Tests have been successful using Carpenter's Glue, Cyanoacrylates, and epoxies. The shear strength, however, has not yet been determined. Again, it is important to clean the wood surfaces with solvent. Be sure that the solvent has completely evaporated before gluing.

Q: Can PENTACRYL be used on salad bowls and eating utensils? A: Although PENTACRYL is considered non-toxic, it is not registered as food grade. Therefore, we cannot make any claims that it can be used on items intended for use with food. We are however, working on a food grade PENTACRYL.

Q: If PENTACRYL freezes, will it lose its properties? A: No. PENTACRYL has been run through 16 freeze-thaw cycles, some solids settle out after being frozen 2-3 times, but will readily disperse when brought to room temperature and shaken well.

Q: Can wood treated with PENTACRYL be woodburned? A: Yes. Wood treated with PENTACRYL can be woodburned, however, it is recommended that the wood be completely dry after being treated with PENTACRYL before woodburning.

Q: Does the odor of PENTACRYL remain in the wood after the wood has dried? A: 95% of the odor will dissipate. The time it takes depends upon the type of wood, size, and the length of time it takes for the wood to completely dry.

Q: What can I use to clean brushes used to apply PENTACRYL or to clean up a spill? A: PENTACRYL can be cleaned with soapy water, SOLVITOL, or any mineral solvent.



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