

Tannin Mitigation

Successful tanning blocking doesn't lie in a single product it lies in the N-Hance process.

Tannin bleed or tannin migration can be quite a challenge when working with certain types of wood. Tannin, found inside the wood, often moves towards the surface where there isn't any - this is particularly noticeable when we apply primer, tint base, and finishes.

Some woods used in cabinets that contain high amounts of tannins include:

- Oak
- Mahogany
- Walnut
- Cherry

Historically, the industry relied on special oil-based coatings to contain the spread of tannin, but due to health and environmental concerns, N-Hance has shifted toward using water-based coatings. These coatings are frequently used with a 'tannin blocker' or a 'hardener' to help prevent tannin migration. Adding a hardener to the primer is commonly referred to as a 2K primer system.

There isn't a single solution that can entirely stop tannin from spreading. Here are some helpful steps that, when used together **as a system**, can effectively manage tannin migration.

- 1.) **Monitoring Humidity and Temperature:** Ensure that you have a device to check both your humidity and temperature every day. This will help you better guide your team toward the most effective process for that day.
- 2.) **Controlling Moisture:** When the air is too damp (humidity over 50%), use a dehumidifier to dry it out. Larger dehumidifiers for entire rooms can do this, they use more energy. You may also consider portable dehumidifiers. A fan can also be used to remove surface moisture, reducing the chances of tannin migration. Additionally, spray cleaner onto rag rather than directly onto door. Use a moisture meter to determine if the surface is ready for the next coat.
- 3.) **Allowing Adequate Dry Time:** Ensure the doors, and subsequent coatings, are fully dry between each step. If it feels cool, it isn't dry yet!
- 4.) **Regulating Ambient Temperature:** If the wood or coating is too damp deep down, use heat to dry it out. This could mean using heat lamps or warming up the whole room. Remember, this

step is important in cooler places, but also energy-consuming. Aim to confine its use to smaller areas.

5.) **Extended Dry Times:** When you're working in areas where controlling moisture, temperature, or heat is difficult, extending the drying times are to be expected.

6.) **Using Chemicals:** Our **N-Hance XB-Hardener** is designed to trap tannins, preventing them from moving to the next coating layer. For even better results with the hardener, apply a light 'fog' coat of a sealer product before applying a thicker coat of sealer. This method dries quickly and reduces the chance of tannins interacting with the water in the coating.

Following these steps will greatly assist in managing tannin. Please note tannin behavior can be unpredictable, and the problems caused can vary based on your location. Areas with high humidity or lower temperatures are particularly prone to tannin migration.