

WellerMart LLC

Shellac Hints and Tips.

Thank you for your purchase of dewaxed shellac from us. We stand behind our products and your 100% satisfaction. We only sell the highest grade of de-waxed shellac.

Please see us on YouTube

We are currently adding detailed instructions along with Hints and Tips on our YouTube Channel. If interested please just type **WellerMart** into the search bar in YouTube. This will bring up all of our Videos.

Dewaxed shellac flakes, if stored in a cool dry place, has an unlimited shelf life. Many people store their flakes in the refrigerator. Do not store shellac, either in liquid or flake form, in metal containers. A useful, but not necessary, method for mixing is to first grind the flakes into a powder with an inexpensive coffee grinder. I have one dedicated for this purpose. They can be picked up for about \$10. This greatly speeds the mixing process. I also use a magnetic stir plate with a flask and stir bar. Again, this is not necessary but makes the process very fast and easy. We recommended that your mixed shellac be used within approximately six months for best results. Once the flakes are completely dissolved, it is mixed. Mixing can take between 6 to 36 hrs depending upon technique used. If you are not using a mixer, it's helpful to shake the solution frequently until the flakes are fully dissolved. My solution is usually ready to go within 6 hours.

Many people use a chemical-grade ethanol to mix their flake. I have never personally had any problems using the less expensive and more readily available denatured alcohol from the local hardware store. The less expensive alcohol has a higher water content. If the water content is too high, you will experience what is called blushing. This will be clearly seen once your coat is dried. Blushing can also be caused by polishing on a humid day.

Dewaxed shellac purchased in the hardware store usually has a 2 pound cut. The cut simply refers to the quantity of flakes used in a gallon of alcohol. For example, a 2 pound cut has 2 pounds of dewaxed shellac flake mixed into one gallon of alcohol. Most people don't need that large of a quantity mixed. Below is a chart to make smaller quantities. Other quantities or cuts follow the same ratios.

Denatured Alcohol	One Pound Cut	Two Pound Cut	Three Pound Cut
One Gallon or 128 oz	1 LB Shellac Flakes Or 16 oz	2 LB Shellac Flakes Or 32 oz	3 LB Shellac Flakes Or 48 oz
1/2 Gallon or 64 oz	1/2 LB Shellac Flakes Or 8 oz	1 LB Shellac Flakes Or 16 oz	1.5 LB Shellac Flakes Or 24 oz
1/4 Gallon or 32 oz	1/4 LB Shellac Flakes Or 4 oz	1/2 LB Shellac Flakes Or 8 oz	3/4 LB Shellac Flakes Or 12 oz
2 Cups or 16 oz	1/8 LB Shellac Flakes Or 2 oz	1/4 LB Shellac Flakes Or 4 oz	6 oz Shellac Flakes
1 Cup or 8 oz	1 oz Shellac Flakes	2 oz Shellac Flakes	3 oz Shellac Flakes
Alcohol	1 Pound Cut	2 Pound Cut	3 Pound Cut
1 Gl. = 128 Fluid Oz.	16 Oz. Flake	32 Oz. Flake	48 Oz. Flake
* 1 Quart = 32 Fluid Oz.	4 Oz. Flake	8 Oz. Flake	12 Oz. Flake
1 Cup = 8 Fluid Oz.	1 Oz. Flake	2 Oz. Flake	3 Oz. Flake

Application can be by padding, brushing or spraying. Shellac plays nice with stains, dyes and other coatings such as Polyurethane. Shellac rubs out beautifully and will produce a mirror finish if desired. I typically rub out the finish and cut it back to a warm satin. I like the natural look of a good French polish as is. You may put a coat of a high grade poly or Waterlox if desired. This gives a nice finish excellent chemical and/or UV protection. Be sure to rub out the Waterlox or Poly for luster. Please feel free to ask me questions.