

**Tool Type**

**Experience**

**Injury Severity**

**Description**

We had quite a bit of turnover in the stripping department and one day, a new guy was pouring out some stripper into a can when he got some in his eye. When he was standing the five-gallon bucket up, after pouring some out, the stuff inside sloshed against the side and some splashed out the top. He had to wear a patch over his burned eye and didn't get back to work for a week.

**Advice**

Wear goggles when pouring hazardous chemicals.

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**Description**

My buddy was working with some finishing chemicals on a job and was storing the small supply he needed in old drinking glasses. While we were wearing protective face gear, it had really worked over our sinuses, leaving us unable to smell anything besides the chemical. We took a break from the job and walked out back to smoke. When we got back in, without thinking he picked up the cup with the chemicals, thinking it was his water and took two large gulps out of it. He QUICKLY realized what he had done and we rushed him to the ER to get his stomach pumped. He was in the hospital for a week and still has to take anti-ulcer medicine months later. They thought for a while that he would have to eat through a tube for the rest of his life...

**Advice**

When working with poisonous fluids, make sure they are clearly marked and you don't drink them. Strong chemicals will take your sense of smell away!

**Tool Type**

**Experience**

**Injury Severity**

**Description**

I was putting the finish on a box I made and I was pretty thirsty. I went to go get a Coke, had a sip or two and sat it down next to the chemicals. I began to brush on the finisher and then had a sip of my Coke, but it was not the Coke. I began going into convulsions and fell to the floor. Then my girlfriend walked in and laughed at me until she realized the severity of the situation. She called nine-eleven. They got here fast and I was saved.

**Advice**

DO NOT DRINK BEVERAGES WHEN USING HARMFUL LIQUIDS!!!!!!

**Tool Type**

**Experience**

**Injury Severity**

**Description**

I was using compressed air to de-dust the top of my gravity feed spray gun before refilling it. The compressed air blew off the top, spraying what little lacquer was left in the gun all over me. I was lucky none splashed in my eyes.

**Advice**

Be careful where you aim your air nozzle and when in doubt, wear safety glasses!

**Tool Type** Finishing Chemical

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Close Call

### Description

I had completed building a set of four cabinets and was ready for the finishing stage. I purchased a can of Danish Oil finish. I made sure to read the label beforehand, which recommended that it be used either with a respirator or in a well ventilated area. So I decided to apply the finish outside and forego the respirator. It was a nice day outside, with no wind to blow debris onto my project (or circulate the fumes). Application involves wiping the oil over the wood and leaving it wet for 30 minutes before wiping the excess off. It took me about 8 minutes to apply one coat to one cabinet and about 3 minutes to wipe it off. So with two coats on each of the four cabinets, that adds up to about 1-1/2 hours of exposure. By the time I was done, I found myself feeling a little dizzy and having a hard time walking in a straight line, even the next morning.

### Advice

The warnings on the can only tell half the story. When you purchase a finish, ask for a copy of the MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet). A well ventilated area may not be adequate. Wear a respirator as well. Before going back to working with power tools, be sure that you are fully alert and sober. Better yet, do your finishing one day and wait until another day to go back into the shop to build your next project.