



Technical Bulletin

Reducing the Effects of Silicone Contamination

On a freshly painted finish, craters (a.k.a. fisheyes, pinholes) appear when a contaminant that creates high surface tension prevents the paint film from flowing over it. As a result, the paint forms a ring around the contaminant, creating what looks like a circular indentation with raised edges.

Sources of contamination that cause craters include: oils, fats, waxes, polishing and sealing compounds, airborne oils and waters, and many types of personal care items such as hairspray, deodorant and lotion. Only a very thorough chemical cleaning of the areas to be coated can prevent craters from forming.

If craters have formed, sand away the contaminated topcoat layer, clean thoroughly, and apply a fresh layer of material. Alternately, a fisheye eliminator may be used to lower the surface tension and allow the paint film to flow over the contaminants. R-M makes two products designed to reduce the effects of silicone contamination.

809 Fisheye Eliminator

- Eliminates fisheyes without causing orange peel.
- Use in R-M Clearcoats only.
- Do not use in Diamont Basecoat or R-M Undercoats.
- Add 2 oz. per gallon of RFU clearcoat.

812 Stop Silicone

- Use in UNO-HD only.
- Do not use in Diamont Basecoat or R-M Undercoats.
- Add to cap to one quart of RFU UNO-HD.
- Apply 1-2 very fine coats in the areas where fisheyes have formed.
- Allow solvents to evaporate between coats.

Please be advised that these products should be used as a last resort, and only when a thorough cleaning of the substrate and spray equipment has not rectified the problem. If used, all equipment should be cleaned thoroughly with clean (virgin) solvent-based cleaner in order to reduce subsequent contamination.

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