



STOPLOSSBAGS® ARE DESIGNED FOR OIL, WATER, & ALCOHOL-BASED WOOD FINISHES. THEY ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR LACQUER.

StopLossBags® allow you to preserve the fresh off-the-shelf quality of wood finishes. The specially formulated 3-ply construction helps prevent loss of solvents while a special gas barrier inhibits oxygen penetration into the bag. Each bag holds 1.05 quarts or 1.0 liters.

Almost all woodworkers have had the experience of throwing out cans of skinned-over varnish. Metal cans are excellent for transport and storage until opened, but are not designed for dispensing the finish or the exclusion of oxygen after some of the contents are used.

Once the finish has been transferred to a StopLossBags® it is easy to dispense, a lot or a little, into a cottage cheese container or other similar wide-mouthed container for applying the varnish. After pouring out what you need simply squeeze any bubble out of the bag before tightening the cap.

Filling the bag can be done by using a turkey baster, our Filler Tube and adapter Set, or our StopLossBag® Collapsible Funnel. To use a turkey baster, draw finish into it, then fit it over the spout of the bag. It will take a number of times to make the transfer. The Filler & Adapter Tube Set fits onto the spout of the StopLossBag® and allows it to connect to most funnels. We've included plans for the "filling station," a stand to hold a funnel connected to a StopLossBag (see our DIY Accessories page). The easiest transfer is with the StopLossBag Collapsible Funnel which fits over an opened quart or liter can and the spout of a StopLossBag. It can be cleaned without solvents. Non-Glossy Finishes should be well stirred to insure the matting agents are in suspension before transferring to a StopLossBag. After the transfer it will be easy to see through the clear bag wall the settled agents at the bottom of the bag. Putting them back into suspension is done by rotating and inverting the bag several times. It will be easy to see when it is ready to use.

Use the white information block on the front of the bag to record the finish you're putting into each StopLossBag. A Magic Marker type of pen works well, and it wipes away easily with alcohol.

We wish you well on your woodworking projects and hope that you find StopLossBags to be a positive addition to your woodworking by saving you money, giving you better and more consistent results, and reducing waste.

For Plans for the **Filling Station**, please visit our website **WWW.WOODCHUCKERS.COM** and look under Stop Loss Bags

Strategies for Getting Top Results with your StopLossBags®

Before filling the bag, write the type of finish and the date in magic marker on the information area on the front of the bag. Magic marker wipes away immediately by rubbing it with alcohol.

Dispense what you need from the bag into a wide container. We have found the 24 oz plastic storage container (also available from the supermarket) to be a good choice. They are made of polypropylene which most finishes will not stick to. After several uses the accumulated finish can be peeled off the inside surface.

To extend the life of your filler & adapter tubes, remove them from the funnel so the flexible plastic can “relax” during storage. Some users report good results from keeping brush cleaner or solvent in a small jar to dip them in, then standing them upright on a paper towel to wick away liquid as they dry.

Hint: a light coating of wax on the threads of the cap make it easier to remove.

The grooved ridges at the base of the spout help collect drips. This finish is most easily removed from the ridges after the finish hardens.

If a bubble of air is left in the neck, some oxidation can occur. Over time this can lead to a ring of partially jelled finish forming in the spout. While this can normally be removed with tweezers, etc. it is best to prevent jelling in the first place. If you are unable to squeeze out all the air you may use the strategy of laying the bag flat so the bubble comes to rest in the center of the bag. While oxidation will indeed occur, a small bubble will have little effect on the remaining varnish. Caution: if the bubble comes to rest against the edge of the bag, it can cause localized jelling. If you suspect or see evidence of jelling, the use of a strainer, such as our 125 micron strainer is recommended.

If you purchase multiple StopLossBags® you may want to consider keeping solvent for your finish in one of the bags to flush out a just-completed bag. A third of a bag of solvent will do the job well, and it allows the bag to easily be squeezed to move the solvent around the inner surfaces to dissolve and clear away remaining finish.

When you use the last of the finish in a bag it should be flushed immediately. Any air that may get into the bag can quickly oxidize with the small amount of finish which clings to the inner walls and corners of the bag. We recommend that you flush the bag several times by adding solvent and emptying it into another vessel (or bag) and using a strainer with each transfer. As you use the StopLossBag® you will develop a sense of the amount to decant for brushing. If you initially pour too little it's easy to add just a bit more. If you find you have dispensed too much it may be beneficial to have a second project nearby that may need some modest amount of finish (ends, edges, smaller sides, etc.) to use up the extra finish. We do not recommend returning finish to the bag, but if you do it should always be strained.

Semi-gloss, satin, and matte finishes should be well stirred in the can before transferring to the StopLossBag®. As the bag sits the matting agents will begin to settle in the lower part of the bag, but this is easy to correct. By squeezing the bag, and inverting, rotating it, etc. you will be able to see these agents go back into suspension.