

# **Technical Tip**

## **Stain and Topcoat Additives**

#### **NBS-30**

NBS-30 is an oil-based insecticide additive for paints and stains. Pure and simple, oils and water do not work together, and we do not approve the use of NBS-30 in any of our finishes.

#### **Bug Juice**

Bug Juice is also an insecticide additive consisting of a suspension of Deltamethrin in water. Since it is water-based it is chemically compatible with our finish systems, but when added to Advance™ Gloss, it significantly reduces the transparency and gloss of the topcoat. One of the questions regarding Bug Juice is, does it work? First, insects like carpenter bees, lady bugs, boxelder bugs and other annoying log home pests are not included on the Bug Juice label. In fact, the only target pests are cockroaches, ants, silverfish, mosquitoes and weevils. Second, according to their web site no efficacy studies were conducted longer than 48 hours after application. The bottom line is that there is no data to support that Bug Juice deters carpenter bee infestations nor does the manufacturer make any claims to that effect.

#### **Bitrix**

Bitrex is a bittering agent occasionally used to discourage wildlife from gnawing on logs and other wood members. Its major use is as an additive to liquid household products to keep young children from tasting them. Although it is occasionally added to paint, Bitrix is not compatible with LIFELINE Advance™ and should never be mixed together with any our finishes. It can be used in a water solution on top of our finishes once they have cured, but it must be reapplied after a heavy rain since it is easily washed away.

### Stay Clean I/E

In high humidity environments that are prone to heavy mold growth we recommend the addition of Stay CleanI/E to give the finish an added boost of mildewcide. Stay Clean I/E is only effective when added to the last coat of finish that is exposed to the atmosphere. Adding it to our color coats does not help. The only negative impact the addition of Stay Clean has to our Advance Topcoats is that it reduces the transparency and reflectivity of Advance™ Gloss by about 30%.

