

809410 – 809429 Japanese Urushi Lacquer

Urushi lacquer, also referred to as Japanese lacquer, is tapped from the trunk of the Chinese Lacquer tree, which is mostly cultivated in Japan, China and India. The thick, grayish sap is filtered, heat treated and colored with pigments. Traditional Urushi lacquers are transparent, red or black. Unpigmented, raw lacquer is dark brown but forms a clear, hard, and waterproof surface once dried. The finishes are very resistant to damage by water, acid, alkali or abrasion. Urushi is traditionally known since hundreds of years by Japanese artisans. The application and decoration of lacquer is a long process, requiring many repetitive layers and drying times with humidity, temperatures around 30°C in a dust-free environment. Products coated with Urushi lacquer are recognizable by an extremely durable and glossy finish. Some common Japanese applications include tableware, musical instruments, fountain pens, jewelry, and bows.

General Information

- Store in a cool and dark room. Avoid high temperatures and high humidity.
- Recommended hardening temperature: 15 – 25°C, humidity 60-70 %
- Urushi lacquers older than 6 months require a longer time to harden. It is recommended to mix a newer batch with the older one.

Warning!

Urushiol in the raw, non dried lacquer is an organic allergen. It can cause an allergic skin rash on contact, known as urushiol-induced contact dermatitis. When working with Urushi lacquers, always wear protective gloves and clean affected skin intensively with olive oil. Wear safety goggles.