



Tips for best results

Cactus Juice is a heat cured resin used to harden and stabilize most porous material, especially soft wood. Exposure to elevated temperature may cause material to harden. Keep uncured resin out of direct sun light. **The quart bottles come pre-activated.** The 1/2 gallon and larger sizes come with a separate bottle of activator. **KEEP BELOW 85° F (29° C) ONCE ACTIVATED!**

DRY YOUR MATERIAL Make sure your material is as dry as possible before stabilizing. I like to see 0% moisture. To do this, place your material in your cure oven at 200° F for 24 hours. Then remove it and immediately put it in a zip lock bag or sealed plastic container and seal it up while still hot. This will prevent it from picking up moisture from the air as it cools down.

USE ENOUGH JUICE Make sure you have sufficient Cactus Juice above your blanks. I suggest at least 1". If you do not have enough, when you release vacuum, it is likely that the level will drop and the tops of the blanks will be exposed to air. If this happens, you need to do them again!

KEEP YOUR PUMP RUNNING Keep your vacuum pump running the entire time you have the material in your chamber. Pulling a vacuum and then sealing it off does not work! You need to have the pump running so that it keeps removing air from the blanks and evacuating it from the chamber.

SOAK YOUR BLANKS! Make sure you soak your blanks after you release the vacuum. Skipping this step is the number one cause for poor penetration! The vast majority of Cactus Juice uptake occurs AFTER you release vacuum. I recommend soaking for twice as long as you had it under vacuum. Do not soak your blanks for an extended period of time in an acrylic chamber. The Juice will create a slimy film on the inside of the chamber that is impossible to get out. I like to soak for 30 minutes, then transfer the blanks to a different container. Pour your Juice into the soak container and wash out your chamber with soap and water.

CHECK YOUR TEMPERATURE Double check the temperature of your oven with an oven thermometer. Most toaster oven dials are terribly inaccurate. You want to cure your blanks at 200° F (90° C). Hotter will not hurt the Juice but it will cause more to bleed out before it cures.

CURE LONG ENOUGH Make sure to cure your blanks long enough. There is no specific time I can give you since different densities of material and quantities of material will take different amounts of time. It is not possible to leave them in too long. Once the Juice cures, it is heat resistant to 400° F (204° C). I frequently put my blanks in the oven before I go to bed and take them out when I get up. If you are in a hurry, cure them for 1 hour and then check them. To check the blanks, put on some good leather gloves and remove the blanks from the oven. Peel some of the foil back while they are still hot and if you see liquid Juice, immediately wrap them back up and put them back in the oven. If you allow the blanks to cool down before you check them and find liquid Juice, you might as well toss them in the trash. They will not cure a second time around.

When finished with the stabilizing process, pour the excess Cactus Juice into a plastic paint cup with a lid that can be bought in the paint section of home improvement stores. Cactus Juice does not evaporate so there is no need for an air tight lid. **DO NOT STORE IN AN AIR TIGHT GLASS JAR!** It will cure on its own over time.

WARNING Cactus Juice Resin causes skin and serious eye irritation; may cause an allergic skin reaction and respiratory irritation. Avoid breathing mist or vapors. Use in well-ventilated areas. Wear protective gloves / protective clothing / protective eye protection.