Wrapping up firearms for shipping generally includes some type of packing material, a container, and some type of cushioning material like old newspapers or more often bubble wrap.

There have been a number of posts on mysterious “spots” on both stocks and barrels. No pics until now though. At least none that I have seen.

Courtesy of one of the RFC members via an email to me, we do have 2 pictures of a severe case of the “spots”.

Here they are:
This is a custom made ammunition box that “our” guy had made. Made out of aromatic Cedar and has been finished.

The box was wrapped in bubble wrap, then in a cardboard box.

The spots that you see are from the bubbles in the bubble wrap.

Bubble wrap has to have some type of what I am going to call “release agent” on it to make sure it does not stick during the manufacturing process. These can be a variety of chemicals, most of which can harm a translucent topcoat and in many cases the bluing on a barrel etc. as well as other stuff. Seen some on ceramics also.

These chemicals need to be removed and in the manufacturing processes used in the U.S. they are and that is done very well. Unfortunately we cannot compete with overseas manufacturers from a cost standpoint and one of the results of that is less quality for less money. If the rinse cycle is not a quality process, some of the chemicals will remain on the plastic. Been a couple of posts about this but like I said no pics until now.

When the chemicals remain on the wrap, you get the above.

Anybody getting a firearm shipped to them or shipping one should make sure that the firearm is wrapped first in “brown” paper, not newspaper and then in the cushioning material.

Fortunately our firearms manufacturers do that.
Won’t always contaminate but when it does it cannot be repaired wood wise. Sometimes you can get the chemical(s) off the bluing but if you cannot then that would have to be repaired also.

Personally, for whatever that is worth, when I take up anything to be wrapped and shipped, I make sure that it is paper 1st regardless of what it might be. Even if I use the bubble wrap envelopes you can purchase, I always do that also.

If you buy something off of like GB etc. you might want to indicate your wrapping preferences very clearly in writing. Even if you buy a weapon off RFC. I do and if not wrapped the way I want, I take pictures and immediately notify the seller. Since I get the few weapons I buy from outside sources delivered to an FFL dealer, I always open in their presence so I got some witnesses. Any damage and I refuse receipt.

Sometimes the chemical damage can take a couple of weeks to show up. I also wipe down the weapon with Mineral Spirits right after I receive it to make sure no contaminants are on it like lanolin or sweat etc. or in the case of bubble wrap, any “release agents”.

This particular issue surprised the maker of the box and had the “never had any problems”, must be because of something else like USPS left it in the truck too long. It is not. Translucent topcoats begin to break down from DIRECT heat beginning around 170F to 540F. Again direct heat like putting a hot plate on em. Odds on reaching those temperatures inside a truck inside a package are about the same as one of us hitting the lottery 4 times in a row cause the heat won’t be direct, even if you left it in the sun in the vehicle.

My comment was to him “well you have now. . . . “ and “good luck filing a claim”. . . . He is going to take the box back and strip and refinish at no expense. Nice to work with quality suppliers.

noremf(George)