



Allow Me to introduce Myself, My Name is Fredrick C. Gromley

**First off I would like to thank You For your purchase.
It's support from people like you who allow Me to Continue My
endeavors in the wonderful world of Carving.**

**The Carving that you have purchased is of the finest quality that I can
produce. If preserved A carving will last many lifetimes.**

Fredrick C. Gromley

Preservation of your Carving a Complete Guide



If you have purchased a finished carving

Your carving will be good for inside or out. I use the finest Spar varnish and paints you can buy.

Some Recommendations

Installation

Your carving will last longer if it is kept dry

Your carving will last longer out of the direct sun.

Checking will be more prominent in sculptures that are exposed to direct sunlight

Moisture and heat make wood rot.

If you carving sets in your yard. elevate the carving at least 1" if not 3" or 4" off the direct ground.

(This will allow air to circulate & keep your carving from rotting inside out.)

Use rocks that do not transmit moisture well; Such as red brick.

Stay away from things like chunks of wood or dirt.

Cracks/ Checking

Cracks in the carving (Checking)

Your carving will check.

The first 3 to 6 months are the most crucial.

72 degrees 50% humidity would be ideal.

Checking is a natural occurrence whenever a whole log is used.

it is caused when the outside of the log dries faster than the inside.

If the carving dries to quickly it will crack in a bad way.

Low humidity environments can make this sever.

Do not set your new carving next to a heat source.

If a sculpture is to be kept outdoors, especially in the weather the checks must be treated.

Treating the area will seal the check and minimize further checking.

Options:

The back of the sculpture can be cut (kerfed) this relives the stress on the log and

allows the log to expand and contract. Sometimes this is incorporated into the design

other times it is not desirable.

Treatment:

You can simply brush some spar varnish into the checked area. (follow manufactures directions)

If the check is in a dark area of the carving you can tape around the check with masking tape and spray with black or dark brown spray paint (Rust-oleum) this will blend in well with the surrounding dark color.

You can fill the void with "Great Stuff" Urethane foam trim with a razor when dry.

Fill the void with "Gorilla Glue" or a suitable urethane glue trim with a razor when dry.

Please note: Urethanes expand many times there original size and they are messy in a big way!

After trimming paint with a suitable Opaque enamel paint (urethanes degrade in ultraviolet light if not coated)

I would avoid stuffing the checked area with wooden wedges or anything solid.

Things that are flexible like urethanes will expand and contract with humidity changes.

Clear verses Opaque finishes

I have painted billboards, signs, Outdoor advertising for many years.

One thing I have learned is that the paint companies do not make a clear coating that will last forever.

The Sun Degrades Clear Finishes, Opaque paints last a lot longer.

I'm not trying to scare you.

If you want your carving to last forever it will, But, It will last if it is kept under cover on a porch or in a house.

Your carvings finish will last about 3 to 5 years Outdoors without maintenance Depending on how

harsh your environment is.

If your finish starts to degrade; Paint a couple of coats of spar varnish on your sculpture to keep it protected and looking like new.





If you have purchased a unfinished carving.

Let Me help you on your quest to finish your carving just the way you want, and get good results.

A good Outdoor finish starts with a good base.

If you intend to keep your carving indoors You can use indoor paints and clears, but you will never be able to place it outdoors without first completely stripping the finish off and starting over with outdoor products.

If you choose to use Opaque colors (colors that you can not see through)use a good outdoor white house primer as a base.

I Use top quality enamel Sign painters Paint such as “One Shot”

(These products are expensive highly pigmented and Reliable. I get about 15 Years and the paint still looks pretty good)

You can paint colors with acrylic Craft paints. (Wal-Mart \$.99 a color) (Good results, reasonable I would recommend a UV Clear over this)

Oil based Enamels from the hardware store Rust-oleum (better quality middle of the road price)

Outdoor House paint (Good to Excellent, better quality paints will give there outdoor rating in years)

Coat with a UV Clear for extra durability.

Clear Finishes

Spar Varnish this can be purchased in flat, satin, semigloss or high gloss.

Helmsmans Spar is a little clearer than most Spar finishes.

Purchase a good quality Spar varnish.

One Shot makes a UV coating for top coating painted artwork, I wouldn't use it on bare wood.

You might thin your first coat of clear to allow for good penetration into the wood.

You can use a propane torch directly on the wood to get dark brown or black.

Use it to burn out sticky tree sap.

This will also remove any little fuzzys that might be left from the carving process.

After the torch you can wire brush the surface to smooth it out and remove excess charring.

(Be careful only to burn the areas you want dark or you will have to sand until the charring is gone.)

(Clear the areas you want to stay natural first, the charcoal will make an icky black mess.)

Paint brushes

Hog Bristle

A good stiff bristle brush

They are inexpensive and they excel on textured surfaces

I would love to see your Sculpture after it's finished, e-mail Me a Photo

I'll put it on My Web site

www.ohboychainsawcarving.com

Good Luck to You, I wish you many years of enjoyment.

Thank You
Fredrick C. Gromley

