

Been thinkin' on what you described to me concerning that now funky finish.

My thoughts are.....

If original finish of piece was shellac (likely so if old piece bearing original finish)....when you applied the denatured alcohol, it dissolved the finish to some degree. Enough to allow the likely present Pledge or similar into the finish itself. Since silicone never really dries out or sets up, that silicone would now be inside the finish preventing the shellac from setting up properly again after the alcohol evaporated. Same sorta thing you'd get if you added some silicone to some shellac and then applied that to a piece of wood. Not a good thing.

And what may be complicating things here is that if that original finish is shellac, it's likely that said shellac was not a dewaxed product. Don't know if you've ever seen this, but if you take a can of common Bullseye shellac off the store shelf and pour it into a sealed glass jar, set that jar aside for a few weeks and have a look at the result. The waxes will settle out to the bottom of the material. It's kinda amazing just how much wax is in there. About 15% by volume. Enough to make your eyes bug out.

Anyway, if that old shellac contains those waxes, then you'd create an even bigger mess when the silicone combined with that inside the finish. End result would be very similar to what I described happens if you spray some Pledge or similar onto a piece of furniture that's been paste waxed. Smeary whitish gooey result that won't ever set up. Only cure is to strip it all off and start over. Frequently this can be accomplished by cleaning the piece well with mineral spirits as that removes the waxes and the bulk of the silicone comes off with it. Clean well and when dry, rewax and buff out the piece. But whether this will be successful ....depends. Mostly depends upon the underlying finish. Usually it does.

However.....the reason I doubt the above will work in your instance is because I think the silicone is now trapped inside the finish and is not simply sitting on the top of things. Probably could've avoided this all by choosing a different cleaning solvent. I'd recommend using either mineral spirits or naphtha in the future for a "general purpose" cleaner.

If stripping this piece is in order, you can also count on having some manner of difficulty in refinishing as well.....IF the suspected silicone is present. Reason being that I fear that as you strip the piece, some of the silicone will make it into the wood underneath.....if it isn't there already. "Fisheye" problems would result. That problem is all about surface tension....or correctly speaking.....about the lack of surface tension. Wherever the silicone is present, low surface tension results and the finish will want to run away/slide off..... from the contaminated area.

3 basic ways to remedy/overcome silicone contamination problems.

1- Trap the silicone via the "dusting" of the surface with multiple "dry" coats of shellac .....never allowing any coat to get wet enough to reach flow-out. But this requires sprayng all that finish and probably isn't applicable in your case inside that house. If you do try this approach with a spray gun, I'd suggest multiple (3-5) "dust" coats (after cleaning/stripping the piece well) of Zinnser's SealCoat (dewax shellac) You'd be left with a very grainy surface as a result, but not to worry. You'll then fill up and smooth out this grainy result with your chosen top coat.....which must be something other than the same shellac. As you can well imagine.....shooting a full wet coat of shellac would only dissolve all the underlying dust coats and allow the silicone right back to the surface.

So.....pick something different for the final coats. Nitro would work fine for topcoats or most anything else for that matter....waterborne polys, acrylics, OB poly.....etc.

(You can actually also pull off this dust coat procedure with nitro as well AND finish off with nitro as the topcoats, BUT.....this requires careful control of the final coats of nitro so that total burn-in doesn't take place.....which would release the silicone back to the surface again. Consequently, using nitro and nitro only isn't something I suggest folks try unless they have experience with the procedure....or I can show them first-hand just how to do this. It's all about how much to apply, the relative temps when you apply, how much retarder is in your mix (you don't want much if any)..... and if you blow it.....you can strip and start all over. the gamble isn't worth the risks unless you have no other choice for some reason)

2- Bring the surface tension of the finish material into alignment with the silicone contaminated surface by adding some FishEye Eliminator or Sil-Flo or similar to the finish before application. Note- These additives are nothing more than pure silicone. Bottle it comes in will tell you how much you can add to the finish in your attempts to come into alignment. Add too much and the new finish may never set up.

Note that adding this material to the finish MAY allow you to get a successful result without having to shoot any dust coats. (And.....using one of these additives \*should\* allow you to brush apply your finish.) You'll know if you succeeded shortly after applying the finish. If it doesn't fisheye, success is at hand. If it fisheyes, take the appropriate solvent and wipe the yet wet finish off the surface. Add a bit more additive to the finish and try again. If you hit the maximum allowable and still get fisheye, you'll have to spray some sealing dust coats and then put your topcoats over that.

What frequently enough happens is that the worst of silicone contamination is localized on a piece of furniture. Might be on one or two doors, but everything else responds okay. If that happens, I confine my "extreme" measures to the problem areas only. No sense in jumping thru hoops where its not necessary.

3- Use a finish that isn't so prone to problem results if applied to a silicone contaminated surface.....like a penetrating oil finish. Watco Danish oil mixed with up to 40% gloss polyurethane is a good one. (Bear in mind that in this instance.....the more poly you add, the more "problems" you \*may\* have getting the finish to stay put where you want it. Depends on the severity of the silicone contamination. Apply, let set until it thickens a tad, remove excess. Allow to dry at least 8 hours. Repeat two more times. Buff with bonnet. Paste wax after a couple weeks if more sheen is desired.

Anyway, if you have to strip all the finish off the piece and refinish, then I'd be inclined to use either procedure 3 or procedure 2.....before resorting to procedure 1. Again.....no sense in jumping thru multiple hoops if jumping thru one will get the deed done.