

Finishing



Finishing Materials

- Without any finishing coat, bugs will probably eventually invade your work of art.
- In general, softer seeds (like millet) are more susceptible to bugs than harder seeds (like wild rice). Also, painted/dyed seeds will probably be more impervious to bugs.
- Most artists coat their pieces at least a couple applications of polyurethane spray. This can help protect from bugs and also keep the colors from fading.
- Depending on the piece, you could also apply varnish with a paintbrush.
- Some artists use Mod Podge for a finishing coat (can also be used as a glue).
- With either spray polyurethane or painted varnish, be sure to choose a satin finish, unless you want a glossy/shiny finish.
- For small touch-ups, you can just dab on a little clear nail polish.

Storage

- When displaying, it's best to keep the piece from heat, humidity, and strong light.
- For long-term storage, the safest method is to seal in a plastic box with some mothballs. This makes the piece smell, though, so air it out (safely—outside) before using.
- Some people apply a new coat of polyurethane every year to maintain the seal.