

Some of our members have recently experienced bubbling and fuming at the site of application of CA glue, especially Thin CA. Please note that this is normal! Not necessarily good, but normal!

CA sets as an exothermic (heat generating) chemical reaction, and it is accelerated with moisture or the use of CA accelerator. And by accelerated, I mean big time! If you flood a water wet or punky area with (thin) CA glue, it will react very rapidly and all at once. That releases a huge and instantaneous amount of heat as well as chemical fumes. It is not going to light on fire, and, on wood, I have never heard of a fire starting on wood from CA glue. Wiping on tissue paper, cotton cloth, napkins, etc., will result in the same result, fumes and heat. The fumes are obnoxious, for sure. I use a mask and organic vapor canister on a face mask when I have to do a lot of CA work, or it is a large or punky area to cover. Accelerator even further increases the rate of the chemical reaction.

Please note that Accelerator should always be applied to the wood surface BEFORE the CA glue and allowed to set in a little before applying the CA. If you are trying to fortify or set up a larger, wet or punky area of wood, it may be possible to minimize this reaction by applying a small amount of CA (by drops) into alternating spots on the work. Other than the obnoxious fumes, the only other real concern with this occurrence is that white bubbly residual may occur in the area and, though can be turned, may leave white residual in the work.

Whenever possible CA work should be done outside, and if inside, consider using a fan to blow the fumes away from you. Even so, complete dissipation of the fumes IN your entire shop space may take overnight.

CA is a woodturners miracle product, but you must know how to use it and what to expect.