

## Cleaning and Prepping Sea Urchin Shells

Sea Urchin shells are extremely fragile. For this reason, shell suppliers strengthen the shell by coating the interior of the shell with a white glue mixture. Shells are clamped with a rubber band while they dry. Frequently, remnants of the rubber band are still attached to the exterior of the shell when they are received and need to be removed so they look their very best.

To remove the rubber band residue, you'll need a small stainless steel brush and lacquer thinner. Dip the brush in lacquer thinner and gently scrub the affected area until clean. Wipe clean with a soft cotton rag. **DO NOT** use brass, bronze or other types of metal brushes as they may embed metal particles in the surface of the shell that cannot be removed.

After the shell has been cleaned and inspected, we highly recommend spraying the exterior with a clear lacquer as it strengthens the shell, enhances color and adds clarity that make the shell look its very best.

For further information or assistance, give us a call at 800-551-8876 and we'll be happy to assist you.