

Dodge



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The Restorative Edge

by Jay Rhodes, CFSP

Over the years, many professional embalmers have learned the secrets of Restorative. They have the edge and use it to set themselves apart from embalmers that do a good job but somehow don't have quite the same results as embalmers who use Restorative. Reading the description of Restorative in the Dodge Catalog gives several hints of the end results of using Restorative: "Prevents tissue shrinkage," "Velvetizes skin texture," "Restores natural contours," "Restores drawn features," and, "Enhances the illusion of repose." But what does this really mean? And how does it work? The bottom line is that it enhances the

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illusion of repose. More interestingly, you can have good, better, or best results, all depending on how many of the different Restorative enhancement techniques were used on any given case.

Another perspective: if two or more competitors happen to use a Customer Satisfaction survey and they all get the proverbial “ten,” do the bodies all look the same? Or could there be one that looks better? This concept can be captured with the following remarks actually heard over the years:

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A priest comments to a funeral director while in the lead car: “The other fellow does a good job, but why do your bodies look better?”

Or, a family member comments to the funeral director: “We used to call the other funeral home and they do a good job; but we didn’t know bodies could look this good. That’s why we called you.”

Yes, there are a number of variables that make the difference. Feature setting is one possible difference. The use of accessory chemicals is another critical difference. The quality of the chemicals used, even more so. As a chemical of the highest quality, Restorative stands out in one major respect: it has no oil, lanolin, or emulsified fat. Think of what women buy for the cosmetic care of their faces: botanicals. Restorative is a botanical formula that ultimately restores the tissue to a more natural appearance. Re-reading the first paragraph is now a bit more meaningful.

Most embalmers who are familiar with Restorative typically use it as a co-injection for emaciated cases. And if that is all you do with it, you are getting your money’s worth. But Restorative is a unique product with a variety of alternative uses to further enhance your work. Over the years, I have collected these suggestions and tried them with excellent results. But first, let’s consider the primary use as a co-injection for emaciated cases. Use no more than 16 ounces per gallon of solution with controlled drainage. Alternate the injection and drainage. Inject against closed drainage. The last injection against a closed vein allows the chemicals to work that much more effectively.

Use Restorative as a topical tissue conditioner. Set up a bottle of Restorative with a sprayer and spray it on the

facial tissue as a pre-embalming treatment when the skin is damaged due to the sun, chemo treatments, etc. Keep the tissue wet with Restorative throughout the embalming. This accelerates the repair of the tissue. You can also spray the tissue one last time after embalming, cover the face with plastic, and skip the massage cream. To cosmetize, use your massage cream brush to smooth out any extra Restorative and then apply a tinted massage cream. As an example, Blonde Massage Cream is the substitute for Light French Rose Tint. If you are not familiar with the various colors of Massage Cream, take some time to experiment. They can look radical in the jar but feathered into the tissue, they are amazing. Add the highlights and a light dusting of powder and you are good to go. Ever have to shave the remains after embalming? Use Restorative instead of shaving cream or soap. Afterwards, spray Restorative on the facial tissue to help eliminate the effects of razor burn. Rehydrate and restore pliability to eyes that are sunken and dehydrated. This is another pre-embalming treatment where you immediately start a Restorative application. Liberally spray the eyes with Restorative and allow it to work for at least thirty minutes. This will restore some pliability to the tissue making it easier to set and close the eyes.

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Dehydrated lips will also respond to Restorative if you spray it on the lips. In these cases, once the mouth is closed, use one ply, not a sheet, of Webril, cut to shape, and place on the lips as a pack. Then spray the Webril with Restorative, keeping it moist throughout the embalming. If the dehydration is not too extreme, this Restorative pack will plump the tissue and erase much, if not all, of the discoloration due to dehydration. To improve extreme cases, leave the pack covered with plastic overnight. You will also want to use Restorative as a co-injection in the arterial solution.

The hands are probably the most neglected area for cosmetic treatment. If you want the best results, you can spray Restorative on skin damaged hands as a pre-embalming treatment.

Feature building can sometimes be frustrating in cases of severe emaciation when the skin is drawn tight to the bone. In cases that will require feature building to look their best, use up to one bottle of Restorative in the last gallon against closed drainage. To prepare for this injection, estimate how much solution will be needed to fill (not swell) the tissue. Then stop the injection and let the drainage dwindle

to little or no drainage. Add the extra Restorative to the solution, mix, and inject this last solution with the drainage closed. Monitor for filling versus swelling. If necessary, stop the injection and release some of the drainage. In any event, always finish the injection against closed drainage so that the features are somewhat filled.

Leave the system closed for at least thirty minutes. You will experience some settling and will still need to do some feature building. The bottom line: the tissue will be rehydrated. Now the Feature Builder, once injected, will react, and the liquid will turn to “cotton,” building the features out with better results than you could get without using this technique.

Restorative can be used on a regular basis for general embalming (no edema). This will virtually eliminate dehydration and “separation” of the lips and eyes for the “normal” case. Yes, you can use Restorative on normal cases. (However, do not use Restorative for obese, distended, or swollen bodies). Six (6) to eight (8) ounces per gallon of arterial solution helps with the distribution but, more importantly, it will help you provide a nicer “final touch” when the family steps to the casket for their last moment. The improved texture of the tissue, should they touch the hands of the deceased, will be more pleasant to the touch than the dried out (perhaps wrinkled) fingers of a body embalmed without this effective accessory chemical.

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