

The Perfect Stain Application Tips and Techniques

Rules, Tips and Paraphernalia

WHAT YOU SHOULD HAVE ON HAND TO GET STARTED:

Sand Paper

For NEW Wood – 3 Grades of Sand Paper (120 - 180 – 220)

For REFINISHING Project - To rid of high spots, old paint or gouges add an 80 grit

Tack Cloth – available at hardware stores, home centers, or online

Latex Gloves - it stains skin as well as wood

Applicator – (Rag – Cheap brush – foam brush)

Stain – oil is my recommendation for indoor projects

Pre Satin Conditioner - Soft woods always – optional on hard woods

Mineral spirits - Oil stains only

Tarp or plastic drop cloth - to protect surroundings

RULES:

RULE #1 – PREPARE THE WOOD – remove all old finishes and sand in steps to 180-220 grit

RULE #2 – REMOVE ALL DUST – wipe down with tack cloth

RULE #3 – KNOW YOUR WOOD – different woods stain differently altering color and tone - experiment

RULE #4: PRESTAIN CONDITIONERS – soft woods blotch so be sure to use a pre-stain conditioner

RULE #5 – SHAKE AND STIR – mix the stain well

RULE #6 – FLOOD AND WIPE – flood the surface with puddles of wood stain

RULE #7 – TIMING IS EVERYTHING – wipe when you first see a “soaked in” spot

RULE #8 – LET DRY OVERNIGHT – make sure the surface is dry before applying your clear finish

RULE #9 – SAND - Sand LIGHTLY with FINE (220 Grit) SANDPAPER before applying the clear finish

TIPS:

TIP: If using a pre-stain conditioner read the manufacturers recommendations for application times. But here's an important tip do not let the pre-stain conditioner dry on the wood. Wipe off excess standing conditioner and apply your wood stain immediately. Stain should be applied over wood that is still damp with conditioner.

TIP: Wiping wood stain off TOO SOON IS BETTER than wiping too late. You can always recoat if too light in color but can't lighten if too dark.

TIP: Stain adds color not protection. A clear finish is needed to protect your project. Many clear finishes come in High Gloss, Semi-Gloss and Satin sheens. Chose the sheen that fits your project. There is no difference in its ability to protect the surface.

TIP: STAIN IS NOT A FINISH. IT PROVIDES NO PROTECTION TO THE SURFACE OF THE WOOD. The next step is finishing. By far the most commonly used finish is polyurethane and **90% of the people apply it wrong**. The end result is polyurethane surface bubbles, runs, brush marks and uneven surfaces from puddling.

TIP: Finishing takes time and patience but it's what people notice. The truth is if they don't notice the finish you've scored. A nice finishing job enhances the natural beauty of the surface below without drawing attention to itself.

The next step is a clear finish. Be sure to read on this blog site or watch on my YouTube Channel

“Bubble-Free Polyurethane Application Technique”

Please come back here or to my YouTube Channel and let me know how your project turned out! If you haven't already subscribe as my plan is to release a series of posts and videos on all aspects of finishing and refinishing over the winter. You'll be notified as they are released.

If you have questions just ask, I ALWAYS respond!

I'll be waiting to hear . . .

best paul