

WOOD FINISHES

OIL

My preference is to use a custom blended oil mixture using the finest boiled linseed oil and tung oil to bring out the richness of the wood and its grain, but provide ample protection. I blend in a hardener to make the finish more durable. The finish is hand rubbed on all surface both outside exposed pieces as well as all internal components of the furniture piece. I prefer to coat all surface as this both protects the wood and seals it, thus lessening the amount of wood movement due to changes in moisture over the seasons. Top and use surfaces can receive over five coatings. The final finish gives a rich low luster sheen, which if properly cared for will provide a lifetime of beauty to your furniture. Oil based coats will tend to have a slight golden tone when applied over a light colored wood and may darken slightly with age and sunlight. A stain can also be applied to the surface before the oil finish to tint the wood.

REPAIRABLE

Oil finishes are susceptible to scratches like any other finish. Water stains can also damage oil finishes if a spill is not attended to quickly. This type of damage takes a little more repair work. Deep scratches and gouges can be more problematic and are a problem no matter what the finish technique used.

Light scratches can be lightly sanded out and a new oil finish applied.

A water stain on an oil finish can be repaired.

Our finish, in addition to being satiny smooth and lustrous, is easy to renew and repair. Tabletop rings and superficial scratches usually only penetrate the wax and can be buffed out with 0000 Steel Wool. More serious blemishes can usually be spot-repaired with oil and wax. Unlike most finishes, including lacquer and polyurethane, there is no need to completely strip and refinish an oiled and waxed piece. For tabletops destined to live in the kitchen, we offer a Polyurethane varnish topcoat over our standard finish.

URETHANES AND LACQUERS

Urethanes produce a harder more durable finish than the oil and wax finish above. Urethanes can be holdup to water spills better. But urethanes are more difficult to repair if scratched.

WAX

Each piece containing an oil finish is hand rubbed with a coating of high-grade furniture beeswax. The beeswax is worked into the finish and then buffed to produce the wonderful protective sheen on the wood.

WOOD CARE

Wood as a building medium is very easy to care for. A periodic light dusting with a soft, dry cotton cloth is all that is needed. Wood can dry out if an improper humidity level is used. It is recommended that you keep your humidity level between 30 and 70 percent. Do not place furniture up against radiators and hot air registers otherwise unexpected warping may occur to your furniture piece.

Occasional waxing (every two months or so in the first year and twice a year there after) to feed the wood, bring out luster, and to help prevent heat and water marks. Some recommended brands of furniture wax available in your local hardware stores are: Howard Feed-n-wax (beeswax), Original Briwax Clear, Johnson & Johnson Paste Wax or Butcher Paste Wax Clear. Application of the wax should be done using a soft cloth with rubbing going with the grain. The wax should dry for a few minutes before buffing it with another soft cloth.

In Addition

1. Lift objects; do not drag them across a finished surface.
2. Do not use nail polish remover, hair spray or perfume containing solvents, as they are detrimental to fine finishes
3. Do not place rubber, vinyl or plastic products on the furniture finish since chemical reactions can damage a lacquer or oil finish making the finish appear as if it has bubbled.
4. Do not use furniture care products containing silicones.
5. When using a glass top over a finished surface do not place felt with glue, cork, or plastic dots between the glass and the finished surface since these items can react with a finish.
6. Do not expose your furniture to strong sunlight. Ultraviolet (UV) rays can discolor furniture finishes and some fabrics.
7. Use coasters for Water glasses, vases, etc. that contain water.
8. Use Felt pads under heavy or hard surfaces that may scratch your furniture piece.
9. Note certain types of rubber feet on appliances and other type of equipment may react with a oil finish. It is best to place a coaster or other type of item to prevent the feet from coming in contact with an oil-finished surface. Generally surfaces finished using a urethane or lacquered based finish do not have this problem.
10. Furniture that is exposed to a lot of direct sunlight will become sun bleached over time. Objects left on the table surface and exposed to the sun will retain a mark on the surface of a different color over time. Periodically it is recommended to move objects to different locations on the furniture to avoid any unsightly color differences in the wood.
11. **Regarding Cherry**, this wood darkens naturally over a few months after the furniture has been finished. This is an expected quality of cherry and it brings out the richness in the wood. Light and particularly sunlight can accelerate this change. **It is particularly important that objects on the furniture surface be moved often in the first few months in order to maintain an even darkening of the wood.**