



Oil Base Stain & Finishes



"The country's finest full line manufacturer of wood finishing products."

Preparing the Raw Wood

With oil base stains we recommend sanding with #100, #120 and then finish with #150 grit sandpaper for harder woods such as Oak, Birch, Maple or Hickory. For softer woods like Pine, Cherry or Walnut start with #120, #150 and finish with #180.

IMPORTANT! Woods that are sanded too smooth do not stain well.

It's also suggested to sand with progressively finer grits.

Make sure to remove the dust by either vacuuming, blowing, sweeping or using a dust cloth. Getting all the dust off is not critical when staining because your going to be wiping all the stain off anyhow.

Preparing Existing Surfaces

We always want to do 2 things, clean or degrease and then lightly sand or buff with a fine grit of abrasive.

First you will need to clean and degrease. Wash the surface thoroughly using a good cleaner and degreaser.

Some suggestions are as follows. 50/50 mix of Denatured Alcohol and water, General Finishes Furniture Cleaner, Odorless Mineral Spirits or Dawn Dishwashing Detergent and water. Allow this to dry thoroughly.

Then lightly abrade the surface. This is just a light sanding with either #320 or #400 grit sand paper or finer, Scotchbrite pads or super fine sanding sponges. Remove dust the same as if you were sanding raw wood.

Note: Its very important that you do not get to aggressive when abrading the surface. If you use a sandpaper that is too coarse, such as #220 or lower you might sand through the old finish in areas which can result in an uneven stain job.

Applicators

- Cloth Rags, need to be absorbent. I prefer clothes with a texture to them.
- Paper rags or wipes. A roll of heavy duty blue shop towels works best. If you use to cheap of a paper towel they will end up falling apart on you and will not remove the necessary amount of stain.
- Foam brushes, great for applying clear coats to flat surfaces and for applying stain quickly.
- Bristle brushes, great for getting stain into and out of cracks and corners.
- Paint Pad Applicators, for applying stain to large flat surfaces.
- Cloth covered sponges, for both apply stains and for applying liquid wipe on finishes.

Pre-Stain Wood Conditioner

THIS IS NOT A THINNED DOWN SANDING SEALER. It is a sealer designed to help soft, porous woods such as pine, aspen, poplar and cherry accept a stain more evenly. Note: Even though Maple is blotchy wood to stain we don't recommend Pre-Stain Conditioner.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Pre-sealing the wood will lighten the color of your stain. It's important that you test the Pre-Stain and color first. A second coat of stain may be applied after the first coat has dried to achieve a darker color.

Application: Apply Pre-Stain Wood Conditioner with a cloth, brush, or spray. Using a clean cloth, wipe off the excess with the grain. Only one coat is necessary. Allow Pre-Stain to dry 30 minutes before applying stain, but not longer than 2 hours.

IMPORTANT: Do not let the Pre-Stain dry overnight. This will not allow your stain to penetrate and you will get very little color.

Benefits: Helps produce an even stain application.

Sizes: 1/2 Pints, Quarts.



Courtesy of General Finishes 2016 Flippin' Furniture Expo

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General Finishes Oil Base Liquid Wood Stains

Are a high quality, liquid oil base wood stain designed to add depth and richness to wood. Liquid stains will soak into the wood more than a gel stain will. This means there is less stain to wipe off the surface. Liquids will apply quickly and easily which works great for contoured or detailed projects. They generally will have a longer “open time” which means you will have more time to wipe the excess off. Liquid stains can also be sprayed on which makes them ideal for large production shops.

Application: Apply liberally with a cloth, foam brush, paint pad applicator or by spraying. Allow enough time for the wood to absorb the color. (Usually less than 1 minute) Using a clean cloth, wipe all the excess off the surface in the direction of the grain of the wood. Allow this to dry thoroughly before either applying another coat of stain or proceeding to the topcoat.

Note: All of our samples are done by applying 1 coat of stain. Here are some suggestions for achieving a darker color.

If a darker color is desired.

1. Apply a second coat of stain after the first coat has dried thoroughly. (12 to 24 hours.)
2. Intermix another stain color to create a darker color. You can also mix these liquid stains with General Finishes Gel Stains to create even more colors.
3. Dye the wood first. Before applying your first coat of stain, apply a coat of General Finishes Water Base Dye Stain, let it dry 4 hours, then apply the Oil Base Liquid Stain. (And yes, putting the oil stain over the water dye will work just fine as long as the water dye has dried for at least 4 hours.)
4. You can also add a little of the Oil Base Wood Stain to the Arm-r-Seal topcoat to create a toner. We suggest adding no more than 20% color to 80% Arm-r-Seal.

IMPORTANT: When trying to achieve a darker color, do not leave a heavy coat of stain on the surface of the wood. It is possible that when you apply the topcoat you could dissolve the stain that is on the surface, creating an uneven finish.

Dry Time: 12-24 hours before applying an oil base topcoat. When using a water base top coat allow the stains to dry for 48 hours.

Benefits: Low odor, easy to use, will not leave lap marks, and very forgiving. Colors may be intermixed to create custom colors. GF Wood Stains can be finished with either oil base or water base top coats. Clean up with mineral spirits or waterless hand cleaners.

Note: GF Wood Stains are not to be used by themselves. They need to be top coated. Non-toxic when fully cured.

Available in 15 colors. Sizes: 1/2 Pints, Quarts.

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General Finishes Oil Base Gel Stains



Gel Stains are formulated with a combination of pigments, oils, and urethanes to produce a durable and beautiful “hand-rubbed” finish. A gel stain is basically a thicker version of a liquid but with more “guts”. This thick formula will stain more even on blotchy, hard to stain woods. Gel stains also work great on surfaces that have been previously finish, on fiberglass and even metal. They can also be used for glazing. The Gel stains are not recommended for applying by spray.

Application on raw wood: Apply Gel Stain liberally with a cloth, brush or paint pad applicator then wipe off the excess with the grain of the wood using a clean dry cloth. Gel stains can be challenging to wipe out of corners, spindles, or other hard to reach areas. Using a dry bristle brush works great for pulling the excess stain out of these areas. Allow this to dry thoroughly before applying another coat of stain or proceeding to the topcoat.

If a darker color is desired.

1. Apply a second coat of stain after the first coat has dried thoroughly. (12 to 24 hours.)
2. Intermix with other Gel stains to create a darker color.
3. Dye the wood first. Before applying your first coat of Gel Stain, apply a coat of General Finishes Water Base Dye Stain, let it dry 2-4 hours, then apply the Oil Base Gel Stain. (And yes, putting the oil stain over the water dye will work just fine as long as the water dye has dried for at least 4 hours.)
4. You could add a little of the Oil Base Gel Stain to the Arm-r-Seal topcoat to create a toner. We suggest adding no more than 20% color to 80% Arm-r-Seal.

Application over an existing finish:

When apply Gel Stain to existing surfaces, keep in mind that this is more of an art form than an exact science. Because the stain is gliding on a smooth surface vs soaking into raw wood, it will behave more like a glaze.

Apply the Gel Stain to a manageable area and then manipulate the stain with either a cloth, bristle brush, or graining tool for the desired look. Allow to dry completely before applying another coat of stain or topcoat. You will achieve better results by applying more thin coats than one heavy coat.

Dry Time: This will vary depending on type of application. When applying to raw wood and wiping off the excess with the grain, Gel Stains should dry in 12-24 hours.

When applying heavy coats, dry times may be up 48 hours.

Over existing finishes it's hard to determine an exact time. We recommend 24 to 48 hours.

You can test the stain by rubbing a cotton ball on finish after 24 to 48 hours. If no fiber is left, then the product is dry.

Benefits: Gel stains will produce a more even appearance on hard to stain woods such as Aspen, Pine, Alder, Cherry and Maple. They also have great adhesion for applying over existing finishes. Gel Stains do not drip or run so they are less messy to work with. Gel Stains have more solids (urethane) in them so they can be used as a one can finish as long as 2 or 3 coats are applied.

Available in 13 Colors

Sized: 1/2 Pints, Pints, Quarts, Gallons

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Arm-R-Seal Oil & Urethane Topcoat

Is a clear, oil-based, durable, protective finish designed for most interior woodworking projects.

Arm-R-Seal has been formulated to be a wipe on finish to make it extremely easy to use. It will produce a finish that is hard, durable and easy to maintain, making it perfect for projects that will receive heavy use such as tabletops. Arm-R-Seal produces a hand rubbed finish with the durability of a polyurethane. It's water, alcohol and heat resistant. It will never chip, crack, or peel. It may be applied in a dusty environment and still get a smooth finish. Non-toxic when fully cured. Although not recommended for exterior use, Arm-R-Seal can be used on exterior doors that are protected by an overhanging roof.

Application: Arm-R-Seal can be applied several different ways. The most common is by simply using a clean cloth. Just apply a wet coat making your final strokes with the grain. For that natural hand rubbed Danish oil look, apply Arm-R-Seal with a cloth or brush and while it is still wet, sand in a circular motion with #600 grit wet or dry paper. Then wipe all the excess off with a clean dry cloth. The final way to apply Arm-R-Seal is with a foam brush. Care should be not apply to much or you could get runs.

Dry Time: 12-24 hours.

Benefits: Extremely easy to use

Available sheens: Satin, Semi-Gloss, Gloss

Sizes: Pints, Quarts, Gallons



Gel Topcoat Wipe On Urethane

Is a clear protective finish that is a gel consistency.

Gel Topcoat was designed to be used over Gel Stains. This product is formulated to be applied in very thin coats to product a soft, silky hand rubbed finish with exceptional durability. Another benefit of Gel Topcoat is that you can apply it in dusty environments without the worry of having a rough finish. Gel Topcoat is only available in a Satin finish.

Application: Apply Gel Topcoat with a cloth or brush and wipe off the excess with the grain. It is important to apply very thin coats and remove the excess so that no applicator marks are visible. Dry time is 12-24 hours.

Benefits: Very easy to use, low odor, and dust free.

Sheen: Satin only

Sizes: 1/2 Pints, Pints, Quarts, Gallons