

FINISHES TO NATURAL WOOD



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<p>SURFACE PREPARATION</p>	<p>Fill all cracks and small holes with, shellac/wax sticks or wood filler. Produce a smooth surface by using glass paper (coarse to fine), first with a sheet sander and then finish by hand.</p>
<p>VARNISH</p>	<p>Applied to natural wood for a variety of reasons. Offers good protection to the surface of the wood. Varnish enhances the natural grain and lifts the perceived value of the product. Preservation of the wood is another reason for applying a finish such as varnish, lengthening the lifespan of the piece of furniture / product. Applied with a brush, pad or by spray.</p>
<p>DYE AND STAIN</p>	<p>Dyes / stains penetrate the surface fibres of natural wood. The most common dyes/stains tend to be water or solvent based. When applied, a further finish such as varnish or wax is required, in order to protect the surface and to give a matt, silk or gloss finish. Dyes and stains mimic the colour of more expensive woods. Applied with a brush, cloth or pad.</p>
<p>WAX</p>	<p>Can be applied to wood products, that are for interior use only. It is usually supplied as a liquid or paste and is transparent or coloured. Liquid polish is useful when covering large areas, because it can be applied with a brush. Paste wax is applied with a soft cloth and requires several coats. Results in a quality 'silk' finish. Wax should be reapplied occasionally.</p>
<p>OIL, DANISH OIL, TEAK OIL</p>	<p>Oil is a popular finish for woods and can be applied using a brush or a cloth, spreading very easily across the surface. Teak Oil is for external garden furniture and Danish Oil for interior furniture and woodwork. Oils tend to slightly darken wood, especially lighter woods such as pine, giving a 'rich' finish. Oil should be reapplied, when required.</p>
<p>SHELLAC AND POLISHES</p>	<p>Quality finish. Was used widely in the Victorian era. Often seen on antique furniture and it's popularity is again growing. Shellac is made from the resin excreted by an insect called 'Laccifer Lacca', found from India to the Far East. White polish and button polish contain shellac. Applied with pad or brush. Does not resist heat or water too well.</p>
<p>PAINT</p>	<p>Oil / solvent based OR water / acrylic paints. Supplied in a range of colours and shades. Applied with a brush or spray. Wide range of uses including interior and exterior decorating. Protects the material underneath. Paint hides wood grain and surface blemishes. Applied with a brush or spray gun.</p>
<p>VENEER</p>	<p>Veneer is a thin sheet/layer of natural wood. It is produced from a tree trunk in a number of ways. When a sheet of veneer is applied to a surface, it produces a quality, natural wood finish. Gives the illusion of an expensive natural wood, but is only 'skin' deep.</p>

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