

TYPE OF FINISH (MARINE)	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION & METHOD OF APPLICATION	AVERAGE PRODUCT COST	COMMON USES	LEVEL OF DURABILITY
<p>MARINE VARNISH (SPAR)</p>	<p>Marine, or marine-grade varnish products come in a variety of formulations, for a number of different applications. The marine-grade Spar varnishes referred to here, are suitable for both marine and home uses. The best Marine-grade Spar varnishes contain polymerized Tung Oil, UV guards, and a 'mildewcide.' Marine Spar varnishes offer a protective, high-gloss coating, one that's weather-resistant and cost-effective. The first step is to clean surfaces well, with soap and warm water. You'll get the best results by thinning the varnish; first coat (with recommended thinner) thin by 50%, 2nd by 25%, 3rd by 15%, and down to zero with additional coats. Use natural bristle brush. Don't apply finish on a windy day. Remove all dust from area well, before applying finish. To clean between coats, use denatured alcohol. DON'T use mineral spirits to clean, it can dull the finish. Don't worry about brush marks or bubbles, they'll flow out on their own.</p>	<p>Prices for marine-grade Spar varnish, are reasonable, but be aware that they're often sold by the litre -- or, by a 6-litre case. A single litre will run about \$20 to \$24. A 6-litre cases costs about \$120 -- when bought by the case, it's like getting one litre for free. Gallons of this finish run about \$30 to \$40, depending on grade, with quarts running about \$16 to \$20 per.</p>	<p>While these marine-grade varnishes are designed for use on boats, they're also a terrific finish for other exterior purposes around the home. These finishes can be used successfully for applications like patio furniture, fences, balustrades, and porch-swings, to name a few. They can also be used indoors, in places like kitchen and bathrooms -- for cabinetry, bar-tops, and anywhere a moisture-resistant finish is needed. These marine-grade Spar varnishes are truly versatile -- not only in their range of applications, but in their protective properties, as well. With built-in UV guards, these varnishes do well when applied to items like interior wooden window blinds, and exterior window shutters made of natural wood.</p>	<p>Marine-grade Spar varnishes have a long list protective qualities; excellent water resistance, a super-strong finish that's both attractive and highly durable, and superior UV protection against the sun's damaging rays. The best versions of these varnishes contain pure, polymerized Tung Oil -- an added oil that's time-tested and known for its penetrating qualities. Avoid Spar varnishes containing linseed oil -- this oil has no water-protection properties, it dries slowly (allowing moisture invasion between coats) and it will darken wood over time.</p>
<p>TEAK OIL</p>	<p>Pure teak oil is a long-time favorite for many a boat owner -- its a highly-favored oil used on nautical wood work -- and often used as part of a polishing process that boat owners refer to as "brightwork." Boats with wood trim wooden seats, and other wooden accessories benefit from periodic applications of Teak Oil -- many of the wooden accessories found on larger boats and yachts are made of teakwood. Teak Oil is very simple to apply -- simply cloth-rub liberal amounts into the wood surface, and repeat as needed. It can be brushed on just as easily.</p>	<p>Teak Oil is not an expensive finish -- quart containers normally run about \$12 to \$14, while gallons run in the range of \$35 to \$40. It's best to buy this oil by the gallon, because you'll end up using it for maintenance over time.</p>	<p>While Teak Oil is often considered a marine-type finish, it's too beautiful an oil to limit its use -- anywhere a warm, enhancing wood glow is desired, teak oil can be used with favor. When used on doors, balustrades, and furniture, it can be followed with a compatible oil top-coat -- especially where high contact or traffic is concerned. It creates a water-repelling, non-slip surface, making it the ideal finish for wooden boat accessories and household items alike.</p>	<p>Teak Oil is an old favorite -- it's great for polishing and maintaining varnished surfaces, and is a durable, water-resistant finish for both interior and exterior surfaces alike. It's cost effective where maintenance issues are concerned, because it's so simple to repair. Teak Oil won't chip, peel, or crack -- providing both toughness and beauty.</p>
<p>CLEAR WOOD SEALER (WATER-PROOFING)</p>	<p>Clear, water-proofing wood sealers, designed for marine applications, come in several formulations. These sealers have many uses -- and besides their main uses, they can also be applied as a primer. They offer excellent adhesion and work well as a 'tie-coating' too. They do, however, require some careful handling as they're applied. It's best to use these sealers in a well-ventilated area, and they should never be used near an open flame, as they are quite flammable. To apply, wear an organic vapor mask, and apply two coats, with a lambswool applicator, or use a natural bristle brush. If the surface has been stained, don't use foam brush, as this may disrupt the finish of the stain. Dry time varies with products, so check the label.</p>	<p>Clear, water-proofing wood sealers are on the expensive side, and prices vary considerably with different products. Quarts will range between \$18 and \$30, while gallons will run anywhere between \$45 dollars to \$70 -- and some products may run even higher.</p>	<p>These clear, marine wood sealers will range in their areas of application -- some products may have dozens of different uses, while others may only have limited applications. You'll need to inquire about this issue beforehand. Because of this fact, it's difficult to accurately describe all the possible applications these products have, but it's safe to say that their uses are numerous -- and since they excel at marine applications, you can bet that they'll hold up well, when used around the home. Any outdoor woodwork should benefit from these sealers -- but be sure to check with the salesperson, to know your limits.</p>	<p>These water-proofing sealers do an excellent job of doing what they were intended for ; and when used in combination with other high-quality products, they provide a tough, long-lasting finish, and help to enhance important woodwork -- on land -- or at sea. They have a medium sheen, so they're never overpowering. Their superior adhesive qualities help lock in the natural beauty of wood -- while keeping moisture out.</p>
<p>OIL-MODIFIED POLYURETHANE</p>	<p>The Oil-modified polyurethanes include an important group of finishes, designed for uses where heavy contact and traffic are present. These finishes have lots of marine applications, but they also do exceedingly well as interior floor finishes. Tung Oil, when present as an additive, helps the overall quality of these products. Before applying this finish, be sure the area is well-ventilated -- and outfit yourself with the appropriate respirator, eye protection, and rubber gloves. To apply the finish, use a lambswool applicator, and/ or a natural bristle brush -- and while laying down the finish, maintain a 'wet edge.' Dry time will vary, according to the product, but count on at least 6 hours -- and up to 24 hours --before re-coating. Gloss, semi-gloss, matte, and satin are the finish choices.</p>	<p>The Oil-modified polyurethane finishes are often sold by the litre, or as part of a 6-litre case. A single litre of finish will run about \$20 to \$26, while the cost of a 6-litre case can be anywhere between \$120 to \$140 -- or more.</p>	<p>As previously stated, the Oil-modified polyurethane finishes fill a vast array of wood-finishing needs, but they're best suited for areas with heavy contact and heavy foot traffic. They make for an ideal floor finish -- on hardwood floors, two coats are recommended, while three coats are needed on softer wood floors -- like heart pine. These finishes may also be used appropriately on kitchen and bathroom surfaces -- they work well on cabinets, trim, and furniture. They don't necessarily 'yellow' with age, but they may take on an 'amber' hue over time, so keep this in mind.</p>	<p>The superior protective qualities of Oil-modified polyurethanes are no secret. Their blend of synthetic resins give this finish a rock-hard, high-gloss sheen, and allow it to stand up to punishing foot traffic -- resisting scuffs and scratches with ease. Of course, you wouldn't want to drop an anvil on a floor finished with this urethane, but under normally heavy exposure, this finish will deliver long-lasting protection and value.</p>
<p>EPOXY MARINE FINISHES</p>	<p>The Epoxy group of marine finishes in the market, are part of an ever-growing, high-tech sector of industrial coatings -- and the epoxies stand at the top of the heap, when it comes to unbelievably adhesive finishes. In fact, there's probably no other class of coatings that comes close to their unsurpassed level of performance. And there are probably hundreds individual varieties of epoxy finishes -- for marine applications alone. Epoxies can be tricky to apply -- they're not exactly a good finish to for a beginner to fool with -- since they don't have much of a learning curve. If you mess up epoxies -- you've got a real mess ! Epoxies come in a application system, usually in two parts. Some systems are self-priming, while others require special primers. You'll need to do some homework before attempting an epoxy finish. There are too many variables to list.</p>	<p>Epoxy finishes are about the toughest finish you'll find -- and all that toughness comes with a hefty price tag. Expect to be shocked, when pricing these finishes. A small amount can easily run \$100 or more. Since there are so many different epoxy finishes available, it's beyond the scope of this chart to provide useful costs.</p>	<p>As mentioned before, epoxy finishes are designed for the heaviest industrial and nautical applications. They don't really have a great deal of use inside the home -- but outdoors, the list of possible uses begins to grow. Places like playground areas, pools, spas, and hot-tubs, patios, and garages all round out the list of possibilities -- anywhere that a super-strong, un-removable, rock-hard finish is desired. There are drawbacks to selecting an epoxy finish ; you'll never get the stuff off once you put it down, there are only limited color choices, and the finishes can be extremely expensive. But if you're undeterred by all the cons, you will not be disappointed otherwise.</p>	<p>If you haven't got the word on epoxy finishes yet -- they're TOUGH ! About as tough as they come. These finishes are designed for heavy industrial applications, which should give you a pretty good idea about their durability. Keep in mind, that once you put this coating down, you will likely never get it back up. Permanence is the idea, and no other finish comes close.</p>