

~ WOOD FINISHES CHART ~

TYPE OF FINISH (OILS & STAINS)	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION & METHOD OF APPLICATION	AVERAGE PRODUCT COST	COMMON USES	LEVEL OF DURABILITY
DANISH OIL	<p>Danish oil finish is an attractive, time-honored finish, used for a number of applications on wood surfaces. Due to its high linseed oil content, Danish Oil penetrates deeply into wood, giving 'depth' and warmth to the finished appearance.</p> <p>Danish Oil is easy to use – apply oil with a clean rag, wiping in gradually and evenly – wipe excess oil away. At least two coats of Danish oil should be applied, for optimal effect and durability – and followed with a good-quality, oil-based urethane – which will enhance the finished appearance and give added protection.</p> <p>Like any oil finish, Danish Oil cleans up with mineral spirits.</p> <p>The color of Danish Oil is derived from special ores, produced from mining – unlike other pigmented oils that contain clay deposits – which give them color. Consequently, the available colors of this oil are limited to just a few.</p>	<p>Danish Oil is a fair-priced finish – a gallon can will normally run about \$24 to \$28. It's important to note that the cost of a gallon of good-quality urethane should be figured into projects where high durability is needed – in such cases, you'll simply need to double your figure for the total job – say, about \$50 to \$60, total.</p> <p>Quarts of this oil maybe hard to find.</p>	<p>While it's true that Danish Oil provides a very attractive finish, it only has limited uses.</p> <p>This finish works best when applied to certain hardwoods – with red and white oak being two favorites.</p> <p>Some of the better items to finish with Danish Oil include indoor furniture, fireplace mantels, interior wooden window blinds, bookshelves, decorative pieces, and other wooden accessories.</p> <p>Oil-finished items that are to be subjected to frequent contact, should be top-coated with two coats of a good-quality, oil-based urethane.</p>	<p>Danish Oil has only fair durability – which explains its minimal uses – it's probably best reserved for interior projects.</p> <p>Items finished with this oil will require future applications – additional coats may be necessary after six to eight months. The initial finish may last for up to a year or more, depending on wear and exposure.</p> <p>Expect the best results with top-coats of oil-based urethane, on top of (at least) three coats of Danish Oil.</p>
TUNG OIL	<p>A finishing oil that's been used for centuries, Tung Oil is well-known for its soft, beautiful lustre. It penetrates wood surfaces well, and takes little effort to apply.</p> <p>Tung Oil can be applied with a rag or brush. Allow a full 24 hours for drying. Two to three coats are recommended, and buffing between coats will help achieve the best results. Some woodwork finishers will use as many as six coats.</p> <p>Clean up is easy with mineral spirits.</p> <p>Tung Oil has a few things in common with Danish Oil; the method of application is basically the same for both products, and the finished look is similar.</p> <p>Many of the Tung Oil products on the market are not 'pure' Tung Oil – some contain additives, giving the products more versatility.</p> <p>Tung Oil, also known as 'Chinawood Oil', is produced from the seed kernel of the Tung tree – a tree of East Asian origin.</p>	<p>The cost of Tung Oil is rather expensive -- it's about twice the cost of Danish Oil -- a pint will run about \$12, a quart runs about \$20, and a gallon will set you back about \$50 to \$60.</p> <p>But considering its high level of quality, durability, and attractive finish – it seems to be well worth the price.</p>	<p>Tung Oil is good for some of the same applications as Danish Oil – especially for projects like interior furniture, and paneling. Pure Tung Oil is great for revitalizing old, tired-looking wood surfaces, due to its excellent penetrating qualities.</p> <p>Pure Tung Oil, on its own, repels water fairly well. Some Tung Oil preparations are specially-formulated for exterior applications, and can be used for items like picnic tables, 'Adirondack'-style chairs, decks, and wooden balustrades. These special formulas can be used for both interior and exterior applications.</p> <p>Tung Oil can be used along with other finishing products – it can be used over other stained surfaces with good results.</p> <p>Tung Oil should not be used on hardwood floors.</p>	<p>Tung Oil gets high marks for overall durability – it's far superior to Danish Oil, in terms of water resistance.</p> <p>Minor scratches are easily repaired.</p> <p>Generally speaking, Tung Oil finishes offer very good value, despite their rather expensive cost – they're easily maintained, they provide excellent penetration and protection, and they work well with other complimentary finishes.</p>
WOOD STAINS				
WIPING OIL STAINS (PIGMENTED OIL STAINS)	<p>Wiping oil stains – also known as 'pigmented oil' stains, contain color pigments like those used in oil paints. These stains are somewhat opaque, which causes them to finish out more 'cloudy' than other types of stains -- and they have the tendency to obscure wood grain patterns -- so keep this in mind.</p> <p>Test the stain first, on a piece of scrap wood. Apply with a clean rag, and add more coats to achieve the desired tone, wiping away excess. The longer it's left on, the deeper the color will be. Stain dries completely in 24 hours. Wiping stains are popular and easy to use.</p>	<p>Wiping stains are not too expensive. Pints go for around \$7 to \$10, and half pints are about \$7 or \$8.</p>	<p>Wiping stains can be used on many different wood species, but they probably work best on the softer woods – like pine, poplar, and fir. These stains will work well on 'open-pore' hardwoods, like black walnut and red oak. Woodworking projects like cabinets, furniture, and decorative items are great for wiping stains, especially when followed by quality, urethane top-coats. These stains are also popular, due to the many available color selections. Wiping stains are a top choice for amateur woodworkers and professionals alike</p>	<p>Wiping Stains tend to be more durable on open-pore woods, including most soft woods and a few of the hardwood species – this is due to optimum penetration.</p> <p>Best durability when followed with a high-quality urethane – this combination will keep finish looking good for several years.</p>
PENETRATING OIL STAINS	<p>Penetrating oil stains contain dyes, instead of pigments, and since these dyes are oil-soluble, they penetrate better than pigmented stains. Although oils like Danish Oil and Tung Oil are part of this group, the oils discussed here refer more to exterior finishing applications.</p> <p>Dry time is 24 hours, but longer on humid days.</p> <p>It's advisable to avoid too much sun or heat – try to work in the shade or on overcast days. Don't apply if rain is expected within 24 hours. Best applied with a natural bristle brush -- also, maintain a 'wet edge'.</p>	<p>The penetrating oil finish discussed here is often sold in large container/quantities, due to large exterior type applications. A 5 gallon bucket will cost you \$110- \$130 Gallons average \$25 to \$30.</p>	<p>Penetrating oil finishes are the preferred wood finish for large, exterior projects, including decks, siding, fences, patio furniture, and shingles. With dozens of tintable colors available, this finish has a wide range of applications. It can be successfully used on floors, if the correct formulation and top-coat product are applied together.</p>	<p>Penetrating oil finish will give the best protection if applied by brush – this protection should last for three years or more, if applied correctly. Some products contain a 'mildew-cide', but this additive isn't a guarantee against this fungus – it will only repel it.</p>
WATER-BASED STAINS	<p>Water-based stains are discussed here, but they should not be confused with the oil-based variety. As an easy-to-apply stain, water-based stains are a likable option.</p> <p>The benefits of these stains are many – they're nice to work with because of the low odor, they're inexpensive, and they produce beautiful, vivid results on a range of species. But they do have some drawbacks; the main one is, a tendency to raise the wood grain. Combat this by lightly sanding between coats. Never use steel wool! (Think : water + steel = rust!) Use a sponge, cloth, or brush. Stain will fully dry in 24 hrs.</p>	<p>Water-based stains come at a nice price, with half pints going for about \$5 or \$6, and pints for about \$7.50 to \$9.</p>	<p>Water-based stains are suitable for numerous applications – but are best suited for use on new wood surfaces. Previously finished surfaces will not accept water-based finishes very well. As with any stain, it's recommended that you first 'test' the stain on a piece of scrap wood, preferably the same species as the main project.</p> <p>Applications include most interior wood surfaces like cabinets, doors, mouldings, furniture, and other interior woodwork. With a rainbow of available colors, the decorating options are endless.</p>	<p>Since water-based stains are typically confined to indoor projects, the issue of durability is limited to high-contact – human activities that put wear and tear on surfaces. Consider scuffing on baseboards, normal wear around cabinet handles and such – and top-coat this finish appropriately.</p>