

# INTERIOR STAINS AND CLEAR COATINGS

Interior stains are generally semi-transparent wiping stains applied to bare wood, and then top coated with a protective clear coating of one type or another. This is unlike exterior stains, which are often applied with no clear coating on top.

## 1. **Interior Wiping Stains:** Most are Solvent Based

- applied to bare wood; use rag or brush; do several ft<sup>2</sup> max, and let stand about 5 minutes; wipe off excess with rags; allow to dry over night
- use adequate ventilation; protect eyes and skin while applying; clean-up with mineral spirits or paint thinner
- all rags, paper towels, etc. with stain, varnish or other oil-based material on them should be spread out to dry in a safe place before discarding, or discarded in an air-tight fireproof container; soaked rags, paper, etc. left out can catch fire spontaneously, especially if wadded or folded up
- darkness will depend on color of stain, color of wood, porosity of wood, time left on before wiping, how hard it is wiped, and number of applications

## 1. **Oil Finishes:** Are Based on Drying Oils Such As Tung Oil or Linseed Oil

- applied to bare wood, often over wiping stain; apply with brush or rag, let set up for about 5 minutes, then wipe off excess with rag; let dry over night before applying 2<sup>nd</sup> coat; repeat if necessary
- discard rags with wet finish as with rags with stain (see above)
- use adequate ventilation; protect eyes and skin while applying; clean up with mineral spirits
- provides a rich, satin finish; moderate water resistance

## 3. **Varnishes:** Solvent Based Are Alkyd or Polyurethane (Urethane-Alkyd)

- applied to bare or stained wood
- apply with a high quality natural bristle or Nylon or polyester brush
- matte products: stir carefully, without making foam; do not shake (flattening agent may be on bottom of container and must be stirred in)
- second-coating polyurethanes: 1<sup>st</sup> coat should dry long enough so 2<sup>nd</sup> coat won't lift the 1<sup>st</sup>; but lightly sand 1<sup>st</sup> coat if it has dried > 24 hrs. to ensure good adhesion of 2<sup>nd</sup> coat

## 4. **Varnishes:** Water Based Are Acrylic, Urethane-Acrylic or Urethane

- may be milky-white in the container; dries clear
- may appear more plastic-like (less "warmth") than solvent based varnish
- to remove whiskers that may come up when applying the coating: pre-dampen bare wood, let dry 20 min., sand (fine grit) going with the grain

## 4. **Shellac:** Alcohol Based Clear; May Have Yellow Cast, But Will Not Darken

- whitens with direct contact with water; quick drying
- clean up with denatured alcohol; don't use where alcoholic drinks, perfume or cologne may spill