

Surface Finishes

Wood Manufacturing

& Finishing

Phase 4

Learning Outcomes

- The learning outcomes for this part of module 3 are set out below:
- Identify and describe the methods of preparation and finish for stains, varnishes, polishes & paints.
- Areas covered are:
- Types of stains, varnishes and polishes and their methods of application.
- Effects of stains, varnishes, polishes and clear finishes on hardwoods and softwoods.
- Importance of removing surplus adhesive from surfaces to be treated.

Timber Preparation

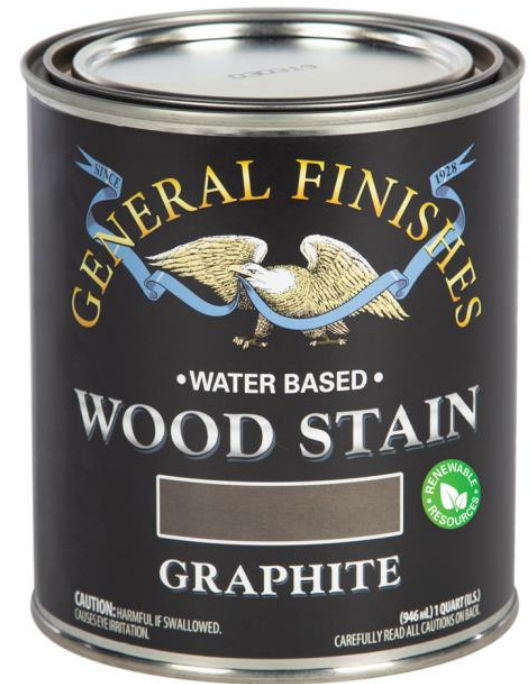
- A good surface preparation is essential to achieving a good finish.
- Why?
- Dents, scratches and blemishes in the surface will be enhanced, not hidden, so very careful preparation is needed.
- Glue marks will be covered over true or false?
- Surplus glue can also show up badly especially on stained work as orange or green staining depending on the glue and the type of wood. – Can you give any examples of this?
- What can cause black or blue staining on wood especially Oaks and Mahogany ?
- Reaction of the tannin acid in the timber to the water and metal.

Methods of Application

- Name 4 methods of applying a finish.
- Ragging: applying a finish with a rag but it must be a lint free cloth, not suitable for lacquers or varnishes. Mainly suitable for stains and oils.
- Brushing: finish penetrates deeper into timber, lots of different brushes to suit different finishes. Pure bristle to synthetic bristle. Longer bristle for varnishes. The higher the quality of the bristle the fewer brush strokes will show.
- Paint Pads: various materials use mohair is best but expensive, synthetic fibre cheaper, short pile. Newer version is the sponge pads on sticks.
- Roller mainly used for paint different sleeves available to suit different finishes.
- Spraying: faster than all of the above, suction cup or gravity fed, airless system or High Volume Low Pressure (HVLP).

Wood Stains & Finishes

- Stains are available in:
 - Water based stains.
 - Chemical stains.
 - Spirit based stains.
 - Oil based stains.
 - Solvent based stains.
-
- Click on the images to bring you to website selling them.



Water Based

- Water tends to raise the grain, so it is best to pre-treat area by dampening the surface and sanding when dry before applying a water-based stain or finish.
- Dry pigments that are mixed with water.
- Wide range of shades.
- Easy to use and resistant to fading.
- Very cheap to buy.

Chemical Stains

- Chemicals that react to the tannic acid in timber to change the colour of the wood.
- **Bichromate of potash**: use this chemical with caution as it is poisonous.
- This will turn Mahogany a darker brown but leave the Boxwood Inlay yellow.



- Click link to bring you to webpage where more [data](#) can be obtained.

Chemical Stains



- **Copper sulphate:** is also known as Blue Vitriol. Dissolve 2 ounces in a pint of water and use this as a stock solution. Caution Very Poisonous.
- **Ammonia:** the fumes react chemically with tannins in the wood causing it to permanently change colour. The technique was popularized by Gustav Stickley and other Arts and Crafts furniture makers of his era.
- You cannot foresee what effect these chemical stains will have on the timber, so it is best to try them out on a sample first.
- For more information on chemicals visit [Wood Finishing Enterprises](#).

Spirit Based

- Dry pigment powder dissolved in methylated spirit and then add French polish.
- The polish acts as a binder otherwise the meths. will evaporate leaving behind the pigment.
- Difficult to use on large surfaces.
- Also tends to fade.
- For range of colours click on the link below.
- [Restoration Materials](#)

Oil Based

- How do you think oil-based stains/varnishes compare to water based?
- They are slower to dry than water based.
- Do not penetrate as much as the rest.
- Less chance of overlap marks.
- Need plenty of drying time.
- Oil polish does not crack or blister or show heat or water marks ideal for garden furniture, tabletops, bar counters etc.
- Some are non-toxic. Can you give me an example of where non-toxic oils might be used?

Oil Based

- **Danish Oil**
- Excellent on pine, it is made from Tung Oil or Linseed oil, used for extra protection and durability. It gives a natural low lustre finish.
- **Lemon Oil**
- This provides a suitable finish for teak and matt finished woods where a wax finish is not desired. It has the aroma of fresh lemons.
- **Linseed Oil**
- A natural product available in natural (non-toxic) and boiled form.
- Moderate heat and water resistance.
- **Olive Oil**
- Used on salad bowls & utensils non-toxic.

Oil Based (Cont.)

- [Teak Oil](#)
- Based on Tung Oil and added resins, it gives a quick drying penetrating seal to teak and similar woods. It leaves a slight sheen when dry.
- [Tung Oil](#)
- This oil made from the pressed seed from the Tung nut tree gives a superior finish to that of linseed oil, and is water-resistant. It can be easily applied using rag.
- [Rubio Monocoat](#)
- Only 1 layer
- Natural ingredients
- 0% VOC
- No overlaps
- 40 colours

Boiled Linseed Oil Vs 100% Pure Tung Oil After 5 Years



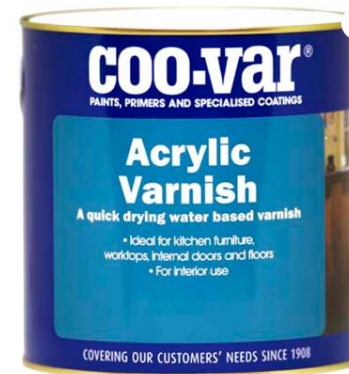
7.26Mins <https://youtu.be/aklfthQN-q8?si=wyltsSfVitX23EoJ>

Solvent based (varnish & stain)

- A **polyurethane varnish** combined with a wood stain, so the stain tends to sit on the surface of the timber rather than being absorbed into it.
- Each coat applied will darken the wood further. [Video link](#) Classic 1Min
- **Acrylic Varnish**
- Quick drying and non-toxic, brushes can be rinsed out in water. Available in gloss, satin and matt finishes.



[Crown Decorating Centres](#)



[Carbon Paint Centre](#)

French Polish

- French polishing is a technique used to seal and protect the surface of the wood while enhancing the natural beauty of the wood.
- Material used is shellac and methylated spirit.
- What is shellac?
- Shellac comes from the secretion from female Lac Beetles.
- The art of French Polishing takes a long time to master.
- Can produce a good finish on furniture.
- A high gloss can be achieved by applying numerous thin coats
- In addition to standard French Polish, other finishes are available.
- Typically, the finish that would have been used on antique Furniture.



French Polish



How to French polish/ Priory Polishes 7.48Mins <https://youtu.be/RjA6JuWLEB8?si=m4IEsaUjWZD2owns>

French Polish

- **White Polish** made from bleached white shellac.
- **Button Polish** made with button shellac, producing a more orange colour.
- **Ebony Polish**, gives a jet-black finish when applied.
- **Garnet Polish** gives an attractive deep rich brown cast to wood.
- Applied in numerous coats using a fad and sanding in between coats.
- Used for repairing antiques.

Wax Polish

- A good quality wax polish with added beeswax will gently lift and remove grime.
- Wax gives a hard protective coating with a natural sheen.
- Traditional wax has no added oils, colour or perfume.
- Wax Polishes are available in a number of forms including liquid, paste, a special brushing wax, coloured waxes and staining waxes.
- Beeswax is a natural wax produced by honeybees of the genus *Apis*. The wax is formed into scales by eight wax-producing glands in the abdominal segments of worker bees, which discard it in or at the hive. In its natural form (without additives) can be used as a non-toxic finish.

Lacquer Health & Safety

- Some lacquers are toxic and inflammable so safety precautions should be taken.
- Wear proper respiratory mask to protect your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Spray in a well ventilated room.
- Always check pressure valves and clocks when you first turn on the compressor.
- Water based lacquers are now widely available and they offer the same properties but with fewer toxins.
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) are solvents that the lacquer is suspended in and these are released as the lacquer is sprayed. VOC's are extremely harmful to the person spraying as well as the atmosphere. We are governed by the [European Union Directive 2012](#)

Lacquer

- Four basic types: What are they?
- Nitrocellulose
- Polyurethane
- AC lacquer – Acid Catalysed, sold separate, mix before spraying
- Polyester
- Nitrocellulose normally sold PC, Pre-Cat or pre catalysed already mixed.

- Lacquers and paints give a harder and more resistant finish than French polish, Wax or oils.
- They are generally applied by brush or spray gun.
- Available in gloss, satin and matt finishes.

Lacquer

- Nitrocellulose Lacquer
- Cheap
- Quick drying
- Produces a hard heat and moisture proof
- Used on kitchen doors, cabinets, chairs and other furniture.
- Polyurethane Lacquer
- Expensive.
- Excellent hard surface.
- Good heat, moisture and wear resistant properties.
- As a water-based product often used as a floor sealer, leaves no brush marks, excellent resistance to wear and tear and most household chemicals.

Lacquer

- Acid-catalysed (AC lacquers)
- Expensive.
- Produces a very durable heat and moisture proof surface.
- Layers set by polymerization.
- Repairs to this surface are not easy to do.
- Tough finish used on furniture, kitchen doors etc.

Lacquer

- Polyester Lacquer
- Expensive.
- Hardest and most durable of all the lacquers
- It dries fast so can only be applied with spray gun.
- One coat is sufficient.
- High gloss finish cannot be repaired if scratched. Item will have to be stripped and refinished

Lacquer

- Acrylic Lacquer
- Water based and contains synthetic acrylic polymers which dry to a “water white” this reduces the yellowing problems associated with nitrocellulose lacquers.
- No smell and non-flammable.
- Reasonably priced.
- Produces an extremely hard-wearing and moisture proof surface.
- Tough finish used on furniture, floors etc.
- Floor lacquer tend to have other additives

Faults with Spraying (Ph 6)

- What is Orange peel?
- Orange peel is simply the failure of a finish to level properly, and has a number of causes:
- The number one cause of orange peel is that the material is too thick. The wrong thinner, especially cheap ones, have the wrong blend of solvents (usually too fast, or hot) and won't let the finish level properly.
- The thicker the liquid, the more air required; the thinner, the less air needed. The obvious fix is to increase the air pressure or thin the material.
- Dirty air cap or fluid tip.

Faults with Spraying (Ph 6)

- What is blooming?
- A milky white haze, cloud or mist can form on the surface of the lacquer. Condensation droplets land on the surface and when drying out leaves white hazy spots.

Revision

- To test your knowledge, click the link below or scan the QR code below.
- <https://forms.office.com/e/9s9Ug05M4G>
- Important
- Short answer questions require a few sentences unless you are asked to list or name something.

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