

Wax

Silicone wax gives a medium gloss finish. Like varnish, it allows the grain of the wood to show through. Wax must only be applied on sealed wood, otherwise it soaks in and never shines.

- i) Apply a coat of cellulose sanding sealer (this sets in five minutes if applied thinly).
- ii) Use a clean cloth to rub a thin coating of wax onto the surface.
- iii) Use a clean soft cloth to buff the wax to a shine. Add at least another two coats of wax and buff each time.

Oil

Cooking oil (vegetable) or special teak oil can both be used to give a water and heat resistant, satin finish. An oil finish does not crack or peel off.

Oil can be applied with a clean cloth directly onto the smooth, unsealed surface of the wood. Five to ten minutes should be allowed between coats to allow each coat to soak into the wood. Three coats is normally sufficient.

To maintain a good finish oil should be applied regularly about every six months.

Oily woods are best finished with teak oil, a mixture of linseed oil, waxes and turpentine.

Paint

Paint provides a water resistant, coloured protective coating.

All paints give a better finish if a number of thin coats are applied rather than one thick coat.

Traditional gloss

An oil based paint. Three coats are required:

1. A **primer** coat. A primer is a paint that sets quickly and seals the pores in the wood.
2. An **undercoat** coat. Undercoat paint contains a lot of pigment (colour) to stop the original surface showing through.
3. A **gloss top coat**. Gloss paint contains less pigment and more clear varnish to provide the shine. If the paint also contains polyurethane it will have a tough, scratch resistant finish.



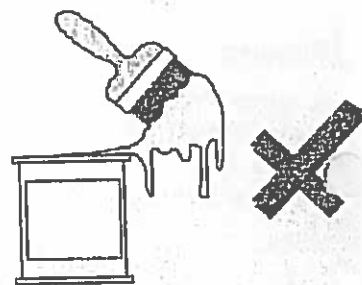
Acrylic gloss

A water based paint that only requires a primer and top coat. The gloss is not as shiny, or the finish as scratch resistant as a polyurethane paint.

Emulsion

A water based paint that often contains vinyl to make it more water resistant and easier to wipe clean. Normally only two coats are required, the first coat seals the wood like a primer. The finish can be matt or satin only, gloss is not an option.

Don't apply varnish or paint too thickly, many a good piece of work has been spoilt by poor painting.



French Polish

This is a traditional polish made from shellac, used on high quality furniture and antiques. It gives the best looking finish of all, but is very difficult to apply and is not water or heat resistant.

KEY WORDS: Sealer, Matt, Satin, Primer, Undercoat

1. Why is it necessary to apply a finish to wood?
2. Describe the preparation method that gives the smoothest finish.
3. Which grade of glasspaper would you use to complete your preparation for a finish to be applied?
4. Describe the method you would use for sanding a wooden surface.
5. What are the reasons for using a wood stain?
6. In what forms can you purchase a clear varnish?
7. Explain the stages required for varnishing.
8. What are the advantages of an oil finish?
9. Explain the reason why traditional painting uses three different coats.
10. What are the differences between Acrylic paint and Emulsion paint?
 - A State which finish you would choose for the following wooden products and give reasons for your choice.
 - A jewellery box made from mahogany.
 - A garden bench made from oak.
 - A kitchen cupboard made from plywood.
 - A fruit bowl made from teak.
 - A mirror frame made from knotty pine.