



# INTERIOR STAINS AND CLEAR COATINGS

Interior stains are generally semi-transparent wiping stains applied to bare wood, and then topcoated 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 with stain should be discarded in fireproof container or put into a metal or plastic container of water and sealed; stain-soaked rags 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 # of applications
- 2. 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 urethanes: 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
- 5. 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 may spill