



Wood stains: advice on wood stains and the most important staining rules

Description/properties:

Wood stains are coloured fluids that are applied to wood before painting it so as to get the desired hue and effect without altering the structure of the wood.

Depending on the structure of the wood and apart from colouring it, they also:

- emphasise/bring out the wood's properties (grain, etc.)
- even/smooth out differences in the wood (opaque wood stains are better than bright shades)
- hinder changes/distortions to the wood's colour (dark, opaque wood stains are better than light, bright shades).

Wood stains that have either more or less colour or are opaque are selected depending on the shade and effect required. The lighter and brighter a wood stain is, the more the colour of the wood comes through. In practice, this means that a premium, light wood stain used on beech appears considerably lighter and brighter on sycamore. You can get similar shades on similar woods, such as oak or ash.

How the wood is sanded, the method used to apply the stain and how the wood is later painted all affect the shade of the finished product.

This is why shade templates or settings always have to be applied to the wood you want to use, along with the sanding technique and surface coating you plan to use.

The most important wood staining rules:

- Read the technical information carefully!
- Good light is the most important prerequisite for working with wood.
- Take note of the glue bleed-through!
Sand down the glue bleed-through thoroughly. It is better to dye the glue beforehand by using the wood stain you intend to use.
- Pre-stain cannot be applied to resinous patches of coniferous wood. Remove the resin using wood cleaner HBV 243 (dissolve 25 grams in 1 litre of hot water) or using a suitable washout solvent (solvent mixture).
- Remove all dirt that is a result of grease and other adhesives, such as when removing resin.
- Cross-cut wood soaks up wood stain and so usually looks too dark.
Remedy: wet and apply wood stain directly while the surface is still damp.
- Once you have sanded the wood, brush off the sawdust well, otherwise the stain may enter the pores of the wood.
- Remove metal hinges before applying wood stain.
- If you do not want to stain adjacent surfaces or edges, cover these up carefully, mask them or apply a primer to prevent them taking up the wood stain.
- Fibre, brass and bronze brushes are suitable for removing grease, resin and adhesive as well as for brushing.
Do not use a steel brush!
Synthetic brushes are especially resistant to bleaching agents.



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- Shake the wood stain well or stir well before use.
- Applying the wood stain:
The majority of wood stains are produced as spray-on applications. Apply the wood stain evenly onto damp wood. Spread the wood stain with a suitably broad brush along the grain on porous woods such as oak, ash, mahogany, etc. Spray the wood stain onto finely porous woods without spreading it.
Please also refer to the relevant technical information for individual products.

If applying the wood stain by hand, first apply it liberally using a stainer sponge or brush in the direction of the grain, and then apply it across the grain. Once the wood stain has sufficiently soaked into the wood, use a broad brush to spread it across and then along the grain in long strokes. Wipe off the broad brush regularly.
Deviations in colour and effect should be expected when compared with spray applications.

- Pigmented, or colour wood stains have to be applied especially carefully because of their opaque properties.
- If you immerse the wood in the wood stain, regularly check the coverage and consistency of the colour. Keep immersion baths clean and be sure to refill and renew them when necessary.
- Store larger surfaces for staining as horizontal as possible. Stain standing surfaces without any coating from the bottom up. We recommend using a rotating table or frame to treat items that have to be stained all over. The worktop should be clean so that the reverse of the work piece does not get dirty.
- Work pieces that have been stained are usually left to dry at room temperature. Using heat accelerates the drying process.
- Do not accelerate the drying process for positive and chemical wood stains!
- Do not put the remaining wood stain back into the container.
- Clean the tools used to stain the wood immediately after finishing the work. Check how clean they are when still wet.
- When using putty to plug imperfections in the wood, pay attention to the following:
Sand and stain the wood putty once it is dry, or use a dyed wood putty. Correct the shade using ink or a Patina tincture, if necessary.
Wax and organic wood putties cannot be stained!
- When refurbishing old furniture, it is often harder work to remove the old layer of wood stain than it is to completely remove layers of paint.
- Note the manufacturing specifications when using bleaching agents which destroy dyes.
- If possible, re-stain the wood using a darker wood stain.

Please note:

The present information is advisory in nature. It is based on the best knowledge and on careful inspection in accordance with the current level of technology. Legal obligation cannot be derived from this information. We also refer to our terms and conditions.

The Material Safety Data Sheet according to the regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 is available.