

## **Waterlox for Woodworking**

Many woodworkers have their own system when applying Waterlox finishes – another reason why Waterlox is enjoyed by so many. You will want to begin your project with the Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish and then continue to apply as many coats as you wish until you reach a desired look. We recommend using at least 3-4 coats, depending on the type of wood (softer woods required at least 4 coats). The Sealer/Finish can be rubbed out to a lower or higher sheen; or you can use Satin Finish or High Gloss Finish over the Sealer/Finish to achieve the right look for your project.

## **How to Refinish Furniture**

### **Wood Staining Suggestions (If desired)**

#### **Tools and materials for staining:**

- Rubber Gloves
- Mixing stick
- Protective Plastic and Masking Tape
- Natural/China Bristle Brush
- Bucket, Bowl or Pot
- Sponge
- Fine sandpaper and block
- Lint-free rag
- Mineral spirits, paint thinner or turpentine
- Stain (if intermixing with first coat of Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish, it is recommended to use an old-fashioned oil-based stain containing no additives such as urethane)
- Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish

#### **How to prepare Wood for Staining**

1. Sand the wood with fine grit sandpaper, removing nicks and scratches as well as possible.
2. The stain will hold better and last longer if you round the wood's edges with sandpaper.
3. Brush in the direction of the wood grain to remove any dust before staining. Wipe clean with tack cloth or a cloth dampened with paint thinner.

#### **How to Apply the Stain**

##### **Applying the Stain to bare wood**

1. Use a stick to thoroughly mix the stain until evenly blended. Even pre-mixed stains need to be stirred.
2. Apply the stain by brushing along the grain of the wood. Don't be afraid to use plenty of stain, letting it penetrate into the wood surface.
3. On large areas, a sponge or painting pad is easier to use for more even distribution. Some sponges may dissolve in the solvents you use. Test the sponge in the stain before you begin your work.

4. After you apply the stain, let it absorb for about 10 minutes. Wipe off any excess stain with a damp sponge. You may want to work the stain deep into the wood with a stiff bristle brush. Rub with the grain.
5. If you would like the stain darker, apply another coat at this time. Let each coat dry completely before applying the next.
6. Be sure the final coat of stain is smooth by rubbing with a medium-hard brush prior to applying Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish.
7. Finish with Waterlox Original Tung Oil products.

### **Staining with Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish.**

This method of staining eliminates a separate staining step and provides a smooth, even color.

1. Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish may be intermixed or tinted with oil-based colorants, dyes or stains (up to 25 – 32 fluid ounces of colorant per gallon).
2. Test the mixture first on an inconspicuous area of the surface or a scrap piece of wood to assure that the color is correct.
3. If the test area is too light, add more stain to the Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish.
4. When the final level is reached, apply the mixture with the grain of the wood and let dry for 6-24 hours (depending on temperature, ventilation and humidity). You do not need to wipe off any excess stain.
5. Finish with Waterlox Processed Tung Oil products or urethane.
6. Make a record of the amount of stain used per gallon or quart so that the procedure can be repeated later if necessary.

### **New Finish Application: Step-By-Step**

Be sure the room that you will be finishing your piece is well ventilated, but not drafty. If there are heat and air conditioning vents in the room, be sure to close off the ducts, and be sure to vacuum dust created by sanding before you begin. Room temperature needs to be above 60°F.

To apply the finish, purchase a good quality natural/China bristle brush. 2-1/2" size is generally recommended. You may wish to use a smaller brush when applying the finish in tight corners, around rounded edges and decorations.

### **Tools and Materials for Finishing:**

- Tack cloth
- Steel wool (#4/0), fine sandpaper, or 3M white pad
- Rubber gloves
- Small artist's paintbrush
- Natural/China bristle paintbrush
- Waterlox Processed Tung Oil Finishes
- Turpentine, paint thinner or mineral spirits
- Soft cloth and soap and water

## How to Begin Finishing

1. Use a tack cloth or a cloth dampened with paint thinner to wipe the surface you are going to varnish. Tack cloth is a specially prepared cloth that removes dust and grease.
2. Dip the brush bristles about a third of the way into the finish. To remove excess finish, gently tap the brush against the inside of the can. Do not slap or drag the brush - this motion can cause air bubbles.
3. Begin with long even strokes across the grain. Let only the tip of the brush touch the surface, overlapping each brush stroke slightly. Do only enough brush strokes to completely cover the surface. (Too much pressure on the brush as you are applying the finish will not only cause air bubbles, but will make the finish uneven. To remove air bubbles, brush along the grain with more finish until they disappear.)
4. Using the same brush, but without dipping it in varnish again, brush along the grain of the wood. Begin at one edge and in one continuous movement, carry the brush to the opposite edge. Overlap the strokes slightly until the whole surface is done.
5. To finish intricate parts, use light coats to prevent running and a smaller brush or rag to apply the finish.
6. Sanding between coats of Waterlox Processed Tung Oil products is not necessary for adhesion purposes. For aesthetic reasons, you can lightly sand the completely dried coats of finish. If there is any dirt or lint in the coats, sanding will take them out. Steel wool is an alternative to sandpaper and is easier to use on rounded objects such as table legs and ornamentation.
7. Once you've applied the final coat, look for any dust or particles that may have settled on the finished surface. To remove them, while the finish is still wet, dip a small artist's brush into the container of finish you are using and wipe it off completely. With the brush's tip, touch the piece of dust. Do not push it into the finish. The dust should stick to the tip of the brush and lift away without leaving a mark.

## Hand-Rubbed Wiping Tung Oil Technique

Hand rubbing Tung Oil finishes or wiping on oil with cheesecloth is very efficient and produces beautiful results. It creates an even coat without runs, drips or brushes to clean.

1. With a teaspoon of Tung Oil applied to cheesecloth, begin wiping into corners, joints and decorative work. This will reduce the excess oil in the cloth pad and allow it to even out oil in the corners and decorative areas.
2. Add oil to cheese cloth as necessary to finish wiping an even coat on top of project.
3. Rub surface with the palm of the hand or two fingers (or cheesecloth and gloves). Wiping with the grain, keep hand constantly in motion, so there are no smudges or fingerprints. The wood surface should feel slick, but not wet after rubbing. It will become sticky within five (5) minutes after being applied and should not be rubbed any longer. Each side of a dresser or cabinet, for example,

should be wiped down with Tung Oil varnish and then hand rubbed before going on to the next section.

4. A little excess Tung Oil varnish during the hand rubbing will allow the wood to absorb a maximum amount; thus, an even coat is being applied.
5. Continue application of Tung Oil with cheesecloth followed by hand rubbing to level out wet areas. Rub oil into wood over entire project.

### **How to Maintain Your Furniture**

Your newly finished Waterlox furniture will last and last. No waxing is required. Damp dusting at reasonable intervals will retain the original beauty of the finish. Do not use detergent unless you rinse it thoroughly with clean water. Waterlox finished furniture is resistant to moisture, common household acids, alcoholic beverages and boiling water.