

# What Wood Finish Should You Choose?

By Mark Salusbury

**PIN ME UP!**

From the editors of **Woodworking**  
CANADIAN & HOME IMPROVEMENT

	MICROPOROUS SURFACE COATINGS	HARD FILM FINISHES	SOFT FILM FINISHES	DRYING OILS	NON-DRYING OILS
<b>BEST FOR:</b>	flooring, trim / millwork, kitchen worktops, furniture, decorative objects, lathework	flooring, trim / millwork, furniture, decorative objects, lathework	low-traffic furniture, lathework, decorative pieces	lathework, toys, furniture, food-prep items, jewelry	salad bowls, food-prep items, toys
<b>COMPOSITION:</b>	Natural waxes and / or oils based surface coating / finish	Solvent based to carry resins / solids	Polymerized drying oils with spirits / oils / waxes added to enhance curing	Natural oils which cure slowly via exposure to air (oxidization)	Non-toxic food grade vegetable and/or mineral oils which never dry or cure
<b>APPLICATION:</b>	One or two applications creates a very durable, rich, natural surface	Two or more coats builds to a smooth film coating with sheen	Multiple thin applications create a rich, replenishable, lustrous, dry, medium-duty coating	Multiple thin coats produce a replenishable, rich, flexible, water-resistant coating	Regular applications produce a low protection, rich treatment
<b>FEATURES:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creates a protective molecular membrane</li> <li>Easy repair and maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seals wood pores and builds a film quickly</li> <li>Spirits based resin coating – varnishes, paints, urethanes</li> <li>Water based resin coatings – varnishes, paints, urethanes</li> <li>Thinner based coatings – lacquers</li> <li>Alcohol based coatings – shellac containing wax                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alcohol based sealers – dewaxed shellac (dewaxed shellac is the preferred sealer for all stains and hard film finishes)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coats woods pores and builds slowly</li> <li>Danish oil</li> <li>Varnish oil</li> <li>Natural oil</li> <li>Countertop oil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creates a breathable membrane</li> <li>Includes tung oil, hemp oil, walnut oil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organic-based versions may go rancid if not cared for / aired properly                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corn</li> <li>Peanut</li> <li>Olive</li> <li>Canola</li> <li>Safflower</li> </ul> </li> <li>Petroleum based versions do not go rancid – “Light Mineral Oil” from a pharmacy is recommended.</li> <li>Easy to repair and maintain</li> </ul>

Should not be topcoated with any other products

The Hard Film Finishes listed above can topcoat any finish in this category below it, and none above it. For example, a water based resin coating can topcoat thinners based coating, but not a spirits based resin coating.

Spirits and/or Water Based Hard Film Finishes can topcoat any cured Soft Film Finish

Soft Film Finishes can topcoat any cured Drying Oil but not Hard Film Finishes

Builds very slowly

Will not accept any topcoat other than Beeswax

**MORE PROTECTION / DURABILITY**

**LESS PROTECTION / DURABILITY**

This InfoGraphic sponsored by:



www.rustoleum.ca

DEALERS: www.rustoleum.ca/pages/find-a-product/

