



Natural Oil Timber Finishes

How to use Organoil's Woodworking Oils

This data sheet provides general instructions for finishing timber using Organoil's Hard Burnishing Oil, but it is also applicable to Garden Furniture Oil. Please refer to the instructions on those cans for full details. This data sheet does not apply to Olde Style Danish Oil—refer to that can's label for application procedure.

Examples of finishing using Hard Burnishing Oil, would include tables, bench tops and other items which may come in contact with water. These general instructions are **not** designed to replace the instructions on the can. For the process of oiling timber floors, please refer to the datasheet "Traditional Timber Floor Finishing".

Organoil's Hard Burnishing Oil, once cured, is hard, and water resistant. It contains Tung oil which, by nature, is a resinous oil. This means it will harden by itself, **but** this curing can take up to 8 weeks to occur (12 weeks in winter). Burnishing reduces this curing time dramatically. The term "Burnishing" refers to finishing oiled timber by using heat and friction (by wet sanding) to speed up the curing time - **without** the use of chemicals or chemical reactions as in a polyurethane.

Organoil products are designed to set within the timber's structure, rather than build a film on the surface like a varnish. In using this product, please **do not** consider that "more oil is better". Most timbers will only need 1 or 2 coats, depending on its density and dryness. Applying excess oil may cause curing problems, resulting in stickiness, dull and patchy looking timber and watermarking. If this occurs, you will need to re-sand the timber and start again.

By using a "Wet-on-Wet" (burnishing) sanding technique, you will be able to minimize any imperfections in the timber. Generally, the level of finish will vary depending on the project and the customer's needs. For example, a tabletop may require a higher level of finish than a bookcase. It is also good to note that hard timbers such as matai will burnish more easily, with a better result, than softwoods such as cedar. In all cases it is preferable to use a machine such as an orbital sander rather than hand sanding, as the machine will create more heat and friction, curing the oil faster. The following is a general guide for burnishing:

- Assuming the piece is ready for oiling, fine sand the timber to a minimum of 400 grit (powered sander), or 600 grit if sanding by hand, using **WET AND DRY** sandpaper. Sand until the timber begins to show a slight lustre. Retain the sawdust on the last sandpaper used — do not dust it off the paper, it will be used as a grain filler in the next step.
- Apply oil to the project, leaving it to soak well into the timber. For dry, porous or old timbers, a second coat is advised 2-3 hours after the first application. (If possible, coat the undersides with oil too. While this area does not need to be burnished, the oil will dry and provide a uniform all-round moisture seal and stop cupping etc).
- With the last sandpaper used in dry sanding preparation, begin to massage or burnish the oil into the timber's surface. If you need more fill to close the pores of the timber, add a little oil to the surface of the sandpaper being used—not the timber itself. By now, you should have achieved a satin finish across the surface. Wipe the excess slurry from the timber's surface with a clean dry cloth.
- If you wish to obtain a higher lustre than a satin finish, continue sanding (by hand or with a machine) using 1200 wet and dry paper. Two or three sandings with 1200 grit paper may be necessary to bring up the desired finish. The paper face should at all times remain clean and free from excess slurry. In need, clean it with an oil dampened cloth. **NB:** Do not add more oil to the timber's surface.
- For cabinetry or lathe finishing, it is recommended to continue burnishing, using 1500 and 2000 grit wet and dry paper. To achieve the "ultimate" level of finish, it is necessary to leave for 24—48 hours, and then power buff with a lambswool or cloth pad.
- Treat the item with respect for the first 2—3 weeks, to allow the oil to fully cure. Avoid water contact during this time, as watermarking may occur. (If this happens, contact your nearest stockist for remedial instructions).