



**General Finishes Wood Stains** contain technology new to water based stains. Our Stains have all the advantages of oil based stains: they spread easily, they can be repaired, they can be blended effortlessly,

and have the open time necessary to work them. The thicker formula allows *controlled* penetration which will reduce blotching on hard-to-stain woods like Aspen, Pine and Cherry Maple. This new stain formula will make wood staining an enjoyable experience for you.



**General Finishes PolyAcrylic Blend Top Coat** was rated by Fine Woodworking magazine, "Best Brush-on" in a competition of national brands. It is our standard work horse top coat and can be used in all situations except on floors. Formulated

to be durable and consumer friendly, it flows and levels easily and has great adhesion characteristics. It has strong sag resistance for vertical surfaces and its higher polyurethane content provides greater durability than other polyurethane/acrylic blends. Once you use PolyAcrylic Blend you will say to yourself, "Fine Woodworking was **right on!**"



**General Finishes High Performance Polyurethane Top Coat** is the hardest, most durable consumer polyurethane top coat on the market today. It contains a UV Stabilizer to protect it from breaking down in

sunlight and to shield the underlying stains from fading. And with its pure polyurethane durability, it can even be used on tabletops. This is the best product on the market... we guarantee that... **the best!!**



BLACK



CRANBERRY RED



WHITEWASH



PECAN



NATURAL



SHAKER MAPLE



COUNTRY PINE



ANTIQUÉ CHERRY



GOLDEN OAK



BLACK CHERRY



ANTIQUÉ OAK



BROWN MAHOGANY



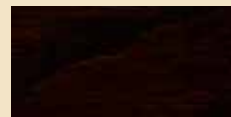
EARLY AMERICAN



ROSEWOOD



WALNUT

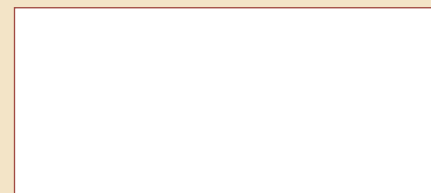


ESPRESSO



Why limit yourself to three or four colors? Whether you want the bold, luscious colors of water based paints and stains, the look of aged wood that has acquired a patina from generations of use, or the classic traditional wood tones of wood stains, we have the finish for you.

You can create customized designer looks on any wood surface and save money applying our finishes. And it's all made in America, right in Wisconsin.



**GENERAL FINISHES**  
East Troy, WI 53120

Made in the U.S.A.

[www.generalfinishes.com](http://www.generalfinishes.com)

- Store locations near you
- Step-by-step finishing instructions with photographs.



## WATER BASED WOOD STAINS







### GENERAL FINISHES WATER BASED STAINS

Water Based Stains are formulated with new water based technology that will make staining an enjoyable experience for you. They dry fast, have low odor, and clean up with soap and water. This brochure summarizes the basics of staining with Water Based Stains. Visit [www.generalfinishes.com](http://www.generalfinishes.com) for additional finishing instructions, including special effects.

### SUPPLIES NEEDED

- A good supply of paper towels or lint free absorbent wiping cloths. Cotton cloth materials such as tee shirts do not absorb well.
- Foam brushes or latex paint pad applicators and a bristle brush to pull stain out of corners. Brush or wash paint pad applicators before use to remove loose bristles.
- #120, #180 or #220 grit sandpaper for sanding raw wood.
- #320 to #400 grit sandpaper or superfine sanding sponges for buffing between Top Coats.

### SURFACE PREPARATION

- Sand with the grain starting with #120 grit sandpaper and finish with #180 or #220 grit sandpaper.
- There are two methods to fill nail holes with wood putty:
  1. Fill holes before you stain using putty that dries hard and can be sanded and stained, or
  2. Stain the wood, apply one Top Coat, and then use water based color putty that matches the stain.

### HELPFUL TIPS

- Water based products produce more grain raising than oil based finishes. To minimize grain raising, complete surface preparation sanding, then dampen the wood with a wet sponge or spray bottle. Allow the wood to dry completely, and **lightly** finish sand again with #220 grit sandpaper.
- To get a consistent stain on soft woods such as Aspen, use Natural Stain as a pre-stain conditioner. Apply Natural Stain, wipe off evenly, wait 30 to 60 minutes and apply your stain color.

- All top coats (water, oil, lacquer, wax, etc.) may be used over Water Based Stains.
- Remove hardware from furniture.
- All Wood Stains may be intermixed to create custom colors or may be lightened by adding Natural Stain.
- A second coat of stain will produce a slightly darker color.
- If working in high temperatures or low humidity, Wood Stains may be thinned with 10-20% water or General Finishes Extender to improve open time for application.
- Tinting may be accomplished by adding 2 oz of Wood Stain and 2 oz. of water to a pint of Top Coat (or 4 oz. of each to a quart). Mix the water and stain together first, then add this mixture to tint the Top Coat. Stir well.
- Use only tack cloths made for water based products (containing no linseed oil).

### APPLICATION OF GENERAL FINISHES WATER BASED STAINS

- Always test the color on the underside of the project before you begin. See warranty at the end of this brochure.
- Always stir the contents well.
- It is essential to apply a **wet, liberal amount** of stain with a foam brush or a latex paint pad applicator to insure easy workability. If too little stain is used, the surface can dry too quickly causing an uneven appearance.
- Divide your project into manageable sections (top, side, drawer, door).
- Stain a complete section and wipe off the excess evenly with the grain using quality paper towels (not cotton cloth such as tee shirts). Check for missed spots and lap marks before moving to the next section. Immediately correct lap marks by rewetting the entire working area with stain and wiping the excess off.

### SPRAYING WATER BASED STAINS AND TOP COATS

For instructions regarding spray applications, visit [www.generalfinishes.com](http://www.generalfinishes.com)

### BUFFING WATER BASED STAINS

Sanding between coats of any stain or top coat is referred to as **Buffing**. **We do not recommend buffing between coats of stain.** If you must buff because you have imperfections that need to be smoothed out, do so with caution using a superfine sanding pad or #320 or #400 grit sandpaper.

### APPLICATION OF GENERAL FINISHES TOP COATS

- If you are applying Water Based Top Coat over an oil based stain, allow the oil stain to dry a minimum of 48 hours under ideal conditions.
- Water Based Top Coats are milky white in the can, but will dry to a crystal clear finish.
- Apply with a foam brush, latex paint pad applicator, or by spraying.
- Apply **liberally** using smooth even strokes working in the direction of the grain. Use enough material to provide a wet film. **Do not** over brush! Top Coats self level beautifully.
- Top Coats have “burn in” characteristics and may slightly lift some of the color during the application of the first coat (particularly red colors).
- On most projects three or four coats of Top Coat is just right. On projects receiving extra wear such as table and desk tops, additional coats will add more protection.

### DRY TIME OF TOP COATS

Dry time is normally 2-4 hours under ideal conditions (70° and 70% humidity). Cooler temperatures or higher humidity will prolong dry time to 8-10 hours. Good ventilation, air movement and higher temperatures will accelerate dry time.

### BUFFING TOP COATS

It is important to buff in between each application of Top Coat for the smoothest possible finish. After Top Coat has dried, buff between each application with #320 or #400 grit sandpaper or superfine sanding sponge. Remove dust with a clean cloth. Do not buff prior to the first application Top Coat. It is not necessary to buff final Top Coat.

### CURE TIME

It is important to let the final Top Coat cure for a period of 14 days to reach optimum hardness. You may use your project sooner; just treat it with special care during the curing period.

### MAINTENANCE

- Water based surfaces may be cleaned with a damp cloth or General Finishes Orange Oil. Do not use household cleaners or window cleaners. Paste wax is not recommended because it builds up and yellows, thus becoming a maintenance problem.
- Top Coats may be recoated at any time in the future. Remove any grease or dirt, lightly sand with #320 or finer grit sandpaper, and then apply another coat.

### WARRANTY

General Finishes' products should be tested to your **complete satisfaction** before using. General Finishes will be responsible only for the cost of the product. General finishes **will not be responsible** for any other costs such as labor costs, damage costs, or replacement costs.

### OTHER INFORMATION

- **Clean-up:** soap and water.
- **Coverage:** 150 sq. ft. per quart.
- **Storage:** keep from freezing.
- **Not For Architectural Use**

