

Curing, Finishing, & Sealing

CURING PROCESS

After the timber is logged it is sawn, wet, the timber is then dried in kilns for 1-2 month after which the good timber is selected and cut to size. No matter the construction style the individual staves are joined and glued up and into raw slabs. These raw slabs now are then planed true and the wood moisture is balanced for another one or two weeks. The slabs are then sanded fully again, checking and repairing any small defects. Then sanded to the unfinished slab, packed and set for delivery.

FINISHING & SEALING PROCESS

Using 320 grit sandpaper scuff the surface of your top in 2-3 foot, straight strokes, always with the grain of the wood. Follow the straight seams of the wood to assure an even, proper sand. You do not want to apply much pressure while scuffing, just the weight of your hand resting on the sanding block will be sufficient. Keep in mind that you are not trying to sand completely down to bare wood. The goal is to just scuff and smooth the entire surface area, to knock off any debris and give the next coat of oil something to adhere to. Clean entire slab with a dry rag to remove any debris.

At Element Wood we recommend 2 finishing treatments. The first being WOCA™ Worktop Oil and the second being Waterlox™ Tung Oil. On our website you can find links to both DIY videos and downloadable information. Below are the basics on how to finish off your Element Wood slabs after they've been fabricated. This finishing process can be done by either your fabricator or yourself.

Waterlox™ Tung Oil Original Sealer/Finish

Pour a generous amount (varying depending on the size of your top) of Waterlox™ Tung Oil Original Sealer/Finish into a standard paint tray.

Using a short-bristled paint pad spread the oil out to the edges of your top maintaining even pressure. Keep a clean rag handy to wipe away any oil that runs over the edge.

Use a clean rag, damp with oil, to even the oil out. The oil will be just thick enough to write in with your fingertip, but not so thick that it will continue to run over the edges after wiping them one time.

At one end of your top and in the center of that side of your top, rub the oil back and forth in 2-3 foot strokes going with the grain at all times. Do not pick the rag up from the surface of the top as you work it back and forth.

Once one section is complete, move over and repeat, slightly overlapping (2-3") the edge of the previous section. If done correctly, there should be no puddles of oil and the remaining oil should start absorbing into the wood.

Allow a minimum of 8 hours for this coat to dry, though we recommend as much as 24 hours. For COAT 1 it is ok to use a fan to decrease dry time. Do NOT go to next step if the finish is tacky, sticky,

or wet – wait until fully dry.

Repeat sanding and coating process, but make sure completely clean of debris and fully dry before repeating process. About 8 hours in between coatings.

Use the 50/50 Mix of the Waterlox™ Tung Oil Satin Finish with Waterlox™ Tung Oil Original Sealer/Finish to achieve a medium to low sheen as your second coat process.

WOCA™ Worktop Oil

Work instructions:

Pre-sand the wood surface with 180 grit paper.

Clean the wood with WOCA Wood Cleaner in solution 1:40 (3 oz. per gallon of lukewarm water).

After cleaning, let the wood dry completely.

Stir the oil thoroughly before use.

Use a paint brush to apply a suitable amount of oil in an even, adequate coat.

Wait approx. 20-30 minutes at room temperature as the oil penetrates into the wood.

For best results, cut a buffing pad and Patina Disc to fit an orbital hand sander (pad/Disc can also be used to hand polish). Polish the wet oil into the wood until the surface feels smooth and uniform.

Keep adding oil and keep polishing until entire surface feels smooth and uniform.

Next, wipe off all excess oil using clean cotton cloth. Do not leave any oil on the surface.

Polish the wood using a white polishing pad or wool pad (by hand or with orbital sander).

On highly absorbent surfaces, a second oil treatment may be necessary.

The oil is thoroughly hardened after 24 hours at room temperature.

Maintenance:

Use WOCA Soap Spray daily or weekly to keep surface clean. Simply spray and wipe.

Re-oiling with Worktop Oil is done as needed. Clean the surface with Wood Cleaner and let dry completely.

Follow steps 3 to 8.