

# Refinishing Instructions

One of wood's best attributes is its ability to be refinished. A full refinish may be needed every 3-5 years. Customers tell us they've found they can extend the life of their finish by applying fresh top coats periodically. You know it's time for a complete refinish if you see major scratch damage, or major chemical damage (from bleach, ammonia, etc.). If you're looking to completely refinish your surface follow the instructions below.

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

### Necessary

- Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish
- Waterlox Original Satin Finish
- Nitrile Gloves (not Latex Gloves)
- Safety Glasses
- 320 Grit Sandpaper
- Sanding Block
- Cotton T-Shirt Rags
- Tack Cloth
- Short Bristled Paint Pad x4
- Paint Tray

### Optional

- 220 Grit Sandpaper - for additional fine sanding if necessary
- Drop Cloth

## PREPARATION

- Turn off any overhead ceiling fans and ensure that you have a dust free environment when following the instructions below.
- Protect surrounding surfaces with a drop cloth or tarp if necessary.

## ESTIMATED TIME FRAME

### Total Working Time

2 - 3 hours

### Total Drying Time

44 - 56 hours

## INSTRUCTIONS

**Coat 1** Wrap sanding block with 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 are trying to sand down to bare wood. Scuff and smooth the entire surface area, to knock off any debris and give the next coat of oil something to adhere to.

Sand the edge. To prep the rounded portion of the edge for the next coat, take a small (4"x4") piece of the 320 grit sandpaper in your hand and wrap it around the easing, scuffing in 1-2 ft strokes, working your way down the edge. For the vertical, flat edge surface, use the sanding block as you did on the flat top of the surface. Finish by sanding with 220 grit sand paper.

Clean entire top with your dry t-shirt rag. Then rub clean with your tack cloth to remove any debris. Do not leave debris on the surface before applying oil.

**Do not use any water-based cleaners.**

Wear safety glasses and Nitrile gloves any time you are working with the Waterlox products. Pour a generous amount (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) of Waterlox 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 ft 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.** This action will resemble the pressure and motion used while washing the hood of a car, starting from the middle, working your way toward the edge you are standing in front of. 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.

**Hint** If the absorption rate appears uneven, there is no need for concern as the density of the wood can vary throughout the surface of your countertop.

**Dry Time 1** Allow a minimum of 8 hours for this coat to dry, though we recommend as much as 24 hours. For **Coat 1** it is okay to use a fan to decrease dry time. Do not go to the next step if the finish is tacky, sticky, or wet - **wait until fully dry.**

**Coat 2** Repeat the process from **Coat 1** instructions, but do a much lighter sanding - NOT down to bare wood. Continue by wiping off the debris, and oiling with the Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish.

**Dry Time 2** Allow a minimum of 8 hours for this coat to dry, though we recommend as much as 24 hours. For **Coat 3** it is okay to use a fan to decrease dry time. Do not go to the next step if the finish is tacky, sticky, or wet - **wait until fully dry.** Do not use any water-based cleaners.

**Coat 3** Repeat the process from **Coat 1** instructions, but do a much lighter sanding - NOT down to bare wood. Continue by wiping off the debris, and oiling with the Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish.

**Dry Time 3** Allow a minimum of 8 hours for this coat to dry, though we recommend as much as 24 hours. For **Coat 2** it is okay to use a fan to decrease dry time. Do not go to the next step if the finish is tacky, sticky, or wet - **wait until fully dry.** Do not use any water-based cleaners.

**Critical Coat 4** Make a 50/50 Mix of the Waterlox Satin Finish with Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish in a paint tray to achieve a medium to low sheen. Stir thoroughly. The last two coats are less forgiving. Read the guidelines below to minimize any problem areas. Turn off any fans including ceiling fans during these last two coats.

Repeat the exact process from **Coat 1** including the light sanding, wiping off the debris, and oiling with the 50/50 mix of the Waterlox Satin Finish and Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish. Use extra caution to avoid debris getting in finish and avoid stopping mid-stroke. **The last two coats are less forgiving** than the first two.

For the oil coats of 50/50 mix, try starting at one end of your countertop in the center and drag the pad

all the way down the top in one long pass, going with the grain at all times. **Stopping at any point before reaching the end of the top will result in a noticeable 'lap mark' in the finish.** Do this in long, straight strips, applying just enough pressure to smooth out the oil, but not enough to drag a large build-up of oil along with the pad. Once at the end of one strip, have a clean rag handy to wipe up any oil running over the edge. Start back at the other end, moving the pad toward you to start another strip and repeat the process, barely overlapping the last.

Using a clean rag, damp with the 50/50 mixture, work your way around the edges applying an even coat that's not so heavy that it runs.

#### **Why mix oils for Coats 4 & 5?**

Satin Finish has a thick consistency that when hand-applied can appear streaky and cloudy. The Original Sealer/Finish has a thinner consistency and contains a self-leveling agent that makes it much more forgiving during hand applications.

**Dry Time 4** Allow a minimum of 8 hours for this coat to dry, though we recommend as much as 24 hours. For **Coat 4** it is **not okay to use a fan** to decrease dry time. A fan could blow debris into the finish which may show in the next/last coat. Do not go to the next step if the finish is tacky, sticky, or wet - **wait until fully dry**. Do not use any water-based cleaners.

**Critical Coat 5** Use the 50/50 mix of the Waterlox Satin Finish and Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish in the paint tray to achieve a medium to low sheen. Stir thoroughly. The last coats is least forgiving. Read the guidelines below to minimize any problem areas.

Repeat the exact process from **Coat 1** including the light sanding, wiping off the debris, and oiling with the 50/50 mix of the Waterlox Satin Finish and Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish. Use extra caution to avoid debris getting in finish - use a fresh, clean cloth and tack cloth to remove all sanding debris.

**Important Guidelines For Final Coat:** To oil using the 50/50 mix, start at one end of your countertop in the center and drag the pad all the way down the top in one long pass, going with the grain at all times.

Once at the end of one strip, have a clean rag handy to wipe up any oil running over the edge. Start back at the other end, moving the pad toward you to start another strip and repeat the process, barely overlapping the last.

Using a clean rag, damp with the 50/50 mixture oil, work your way around the edges applying an even coat that is not so heavy that it runs.

**The final coat is least forgiving. Technique is most important on Coat 5.**

**Dry Time 5** Allow a minimum of 12 hours for this coat to dry, though we recommend as much as 24 hours. For **Coat 5** it is **not okay to use a fan to decrease dry time**. A fan could blow debris into the finish which may show in your finished surface. Do not use surface if the finish is tacky, sticky, or wet - **wait until fully dry**.