

A Fresh Top Coat

One of wood's best attributes is its ability to be refinished. To minimize the appearance of minor dull spots, minor discoloration from chemical interactions, or water no longer beading up on the surface you can apply a fresh topcoat (on top of worn finish*) by following the instructions below.

*These instructions are not intended for complete refinishing.

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
- Paint Tray

Optional

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

HOW MUCH WATERLOX?

- **2 oz pouch** Coverage is approximately 7.5 square feet for one coat
- **Pint** Coverage is approximately 60 square feet for one coat
- **Quart** Coverage is approximately 120 square feet for one coat

PREPARATION

- We highly recommend covering the floor surrounding your countertop with plastic before starting this process.
- Turn off any overhead ceiling fans and ensure that you have a dust-free environment when following these instructions

INSTRUCTIONS

- Step 1** Start with 320 grit sandpaper wrapped around a sanding block. Rub in 1-2 ft straight strokes, **always with the grain**. You do not want to completely remove the finish. The goal is to just scuff the entire surface area to give a fresh coat something to adhere to. The pressure of the weight of your hand is sufficient.

- Step 2** If your surface has a detailed (not flat) edge profile, take the steel wool or sandpaper in your hand and scuff the edge profile being careful around sharp edges as they are very easy to sand down to bare wood. Again, you are only trying to scuff the surface for proper adhesion of the fresh coat.
- Step 3** Clean scuffed area with a dry rag and follow up with a tack cloth to remove any debris from the area to be oiled. **DO NOT USE ANY WATER-BASED CLEANERS.**
- Step 4** Put on Nitrile gloves and safety glasses, these should always be worn while working with the Waterlox products.
- Step 5** Mix equal parts Waterlox Satin Finish and Waterlox Sealer/Finish.
- Step 6** Pour a generous amount (varying depending on the size of your top) of the 50/50 mix of Satin Finish and Sealer/Finish into a standard paint tray. Using a short-bristled paint pad (available at most hardware/home centers), spread the oil out to the edges of your top. Keep a clean rag handy to wipe away any oil that runs over the edge. Apply additional oil if necessary to cover entire top.
- Step 7** Once your entire top is covered with a generous coat of oil (thick enough to write in with your fingertip, but not so thick that it will continue to run over the edges after wiping them), use the short-bristled pad to even the oil out.
- Step 8** Starting at one end of your island in the center (or at the wall on perimeter countertops), drag the pad all the way down the top in one long pass, **going with the grain at all times**. 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. **Stopping at any point before reaching the end of the top will result in a noticeable 'lap mark' in the finish.** At the end of the strip, have a clean rag handy to wipe up any oil running over the edge. Then return to the other end, moving the pad toward you to start another strip and repeat the process, barely overlapping the last.
- Step 9** Repeat until the entire top has been smoothed out. This topcoat of oil should self-level, eliminating any bristle strokes in the finish.
- Step 10** Using a clean rag damp with oil work your way around the edge applying an even coat (not so heavy that it will start to run). For more complex profiles make sure there is no oil built up in the sharp edges as the excess oil will eventually run down over the rest of the profile. Prevent this by folding a small corner on the rag and running it along the sharp edges, pushing the excess oil out. After that do one final pass around the entire perimeter edge.

IMPORTANT

- **Do not place a fan** near the top for at least six hours. Failure to follow this instruction will result in dust particles in your finish and potentially an uneven surface finish.
- **Allow 24 hours** for the oil to dry.
- If after 24 hours the topcoat still feels soft or tacky, **wait until fully dry and smooth** before using.
- There is a chance that you may have to apply multiple coats to achieve your desired look. If you choose to do another coat, repeat the instructions above. Be sure the oil is not soft or tacky before starting the additional coat(s). If it is, allow more time to dry.
- If your top is deeply scratched or worn down to bare wood, you will need a full sand and refinish. Please see our full refinishing instructions if this is the case.