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Title: How to Prepare Wood Before Staining?

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Before staining the wood, it’s necessary to get rid of debris, mold, and mildew. This step is commonly known as preparing the wood for staining.

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https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qgQsd36Ylwh3JrbxM3k7nqLn2SN3CGIZ33uYyzhLjXs/edit#

How to Prepare Wood for Staining?

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Staining wood can protect its surface and add a splash of color to the wood. However, before applying the stain, it's necessary to ensure that the wood is prepared. Otherwise, the stain won't set well into the wood.

Preparing the wood include several steps, including any fixes, sanding it down, cleaning it up, and conditioning it.

Before Preparing the Wood

Tool and supplies you need

Preparing the wood requires several tools and supplies. The most common tools you may need:

- Hammer
- Drill
- Deck screws and nails
- Wood cleaner
- Roller and extender
- Deck brush
- Power washer

Check the weather forecast

Preparing and staining require long drying hours. Check for dry days before, on, and after the task. We suggest taking on the job during the Fall. It's the best time to stain the wood.

Preparing the Wood for Staining

Get rid of unwanted things

Remove furniture (tables, chairs, plants, etc.) from the station and place them in a safe place.

Next, remove dust and dirt from the wood. You may use a broom to do that. Make sure nothing is left between the wood slabs.

Inspect the wood's surface

Examine the wood for any imperfections. Crevices, splits, holes, and others will make it difficult for the stain to set into the timber. Be sure to inspect every area of the wood you'll be staining. Take note of any holes that require filling.

All nails should be driven beneath the surface of the wood. Look over the wood's surface to find nails protruding and use the hammer to press them down the surface. If you don't put these nails on, you'll never have a smooth finish.

Cover nearby things

Protect nearby walls and plants with safety sheets and drop cloth. Avoid covering the plants with plastic. It can kill the plant.

Also, make sure to wet the plants before covering them. And don't forget to wet the covering cloth, so the plants remain in good condition.

Conditioning the wood

Apply the conditioner to the wood to widen the pores. Before staining, it is essential to ensure that the pores are clear and make it possible to apply a uniform stain. It is the reason wood conditioners are to be used.

Use a paintbrush to apply a uniform layer of conditioner on each wood surface. You'll need to apply a thin coating of the conditioner. If puddles begin to form, spread the conditioner to ensure that it doesn't get splattered in one place.

The wood conditioner is very watery and not as dense as paint. Therefore, allow your brush to drip across the container for a few seconds before you begin brushing.

Wood conditioners can be found at the majority of hardware stores.

Once you have applied the conditioner on the wood surface, let it soak in for up to fifteen minutes.

Rinse the surface

Using a pressure washer or hose, wipe off any chemicals from the surface. Wait until it's dried, then move to sand the wood to get an even smooth surface.

Sanding for a smooth finish

Start sanding with 60 to 80-grit sandpaper. Always sand in the direction of the wood. It means you must adhere to the lines drawn on the wood and then sand in the grain direction.

Sand in an even line in a circular motion until you've reached the top of the wood surface. Repeat this procedure for each area of the wood that you'll stain.

Beware of using the belt sander. Belt sanders can be used for more extensive staining tasks like flooring made of wood. The belt sander can harm the surface with a minor job. We suggest using a hand sander instead.

Clean the wood thoroughly between sandings. Make use of a vacuum or tack cloth to clean all surfaces on the wooden surface. You can also employ a paper towel lightly soaked in mineral spirits.

This is crucial since sanding leaves an abundance of sawdust. The debris left behind can cause the wood's surface rough after staining. Be sure to clean the wood after each sanding.

Making your way to even finer sandpaper can ensure that you can remove all minor imperfections of the wood before applying the stain.

Check that the wood surface is spotless. Utilize a moistened towel with mineral spirits to remove any loose debris left behind. Any sawdust left behind could damage the stain.

Let the surface all dry up

Once you have done the job, let the wood dry for several hours to a day. The drying time depends on the product you use. Some products take less time to dry.

Apply the stain

You have adequately prepared the wood, and it's time to apply the stain. Deck preparing is a bit different than preparing the fence. Similarly, applying stain on a fence is slightly different from applying stain on the deck.

Once you're done applying the stain, let it dry for a while before applying the sealant (optional).

Do You Need an Expert?

Preparing and staining don't sound challenging. You may think you can save some bucks by doing the job yourself. But think twice and imagine what may happen if you don't do the job like a pro?

We at Precision Staining are experts in preparing and staining decks, docks, fences, and more and ensure the best results. Let's connect so we can help you protect the wood and give it a new look.

FAQs

What are the common mistakes while preparing the wood for staining?

The most common mistake in preparing the wood for staining is thinking that you can do the task like a professional. While you don't need a qualification to become a professional stainer, it requires skill. If you have the right skill, don't hire an expert. Otherwise, you may end up in a disaster.

Do I need to sand the surface before staining?

Sanding isn't always required. Sometimes you can skip this step. But if the wood is old and rough, you may want to smoothen the surface with the right-sized sandpaper.

Can I stain the wood after a few days of preparing it?

We don't recommend delays once you've prepared the wood. Delaying for long will start creating the same conditions you observed when preparing the wood for staining.