

DESIGN COLLECTION FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS

A copy of this document is available at www.generalfinishes.com

All products used are produced by General Finishes: Wood Stains, Country Colors, Milk Paints, and Glaze Effects.

www.generalfinishes.com 6-24-05


General Finishing Tips


Test, test, test!	Always test your colors on a hidden part of the furniture. Every piece of wood and every wood species is unique and will finish differently.
Preparation Sanding	On most raw woods, start sanding in the direction of the grain using a #120-150 grit paper before staining and work up to #220 grit paper. On hard woods such as maple or birch, start with a #120 grit paper and finish with a #150 grit paper to keep the grain open and receptive to stain. Do not over sand or you may seal the wood so much that it will not take a finish. Remove dust with an air hose, damp cloth or "oil free" tack cloths.
Sanding Techniques Between Coats	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do not sand or buff between coats of wood stains. 2. Regarding Milk Paints, we like to buff between coats using a #220-#400 grit paper or extra fine to super fine sanding pads. This is a light buffing to smooth out the surface and prepare for the next coat. If paint is balling up, you are sanding too aggressively. Just lighten up your touch and finish up. Remove dust with air or a damp cloth. 3. Sand between topcoats with #320 to #400 grit sand paper. 4. Do not use steel wool with water base products, as steel particles will cause rust spots.
Mixing Custom Colors	The following waterbase products; <i>Country colors, Milk paints, Wood Stains</i> and <i>Topcoats</i> can be inter-mixed to create custom colors. Let your creative side come out and play! For example, add <i>Federal Blue Milk Paint</i> to <i>Snow White Milk Paint</i> to get a pale blue.
Distressing, Antiquing & Glazing	<p>Finishing furniture is an art form – you can be as creative as you want! The terms “distressing” and “antiquing” are often used interchangeably in the wood finishing world. These techniques can be used separately or together along with glazing to obtain the degree of “aging” that you desire.</p> <p>Distressing is a technique of marking the wood to give the look of character caused by generations of use. Start by gathering the essentials of character building; hammers, nails, screws, old hardware; literally anything you can pound into the wood to leave an imprint. Then start hammering away. If it’s been a long week and you need a lift, start a little character therapy project for yourself. Get rid of all that anxiety and distress a piece of furniture at the same time!</p> <p>Antiquing is another form of distressing using sanding techniques, often followed glazing to create the appearance of an antique piece of furniture that has been well taken care of over the years but, has slight natural wear and discoloration on the doors, edges, or sides. Antiquing is accomplished as follows: After applying your finish and letting it dry, sand the areas you want antiqued with a random orbital sander, following with 100 grit sandpaper by hand to enhance certain areas along the edges, around doorknobs, etc. The look you are trying to obtain is a slightly distressed piece, so don’t hold the sander in one spot too long. DO NOT sand corners or moldings with a power sander - these areas should be done by hand. Do one side at a time. After you have finished a section, wipe it down with a <u>slightly</u> damp cloth to remove dust and reveal either the bare wood or under coat of finish beneath, creating the look of slightly worn areas. Be careful not to sand too hard after you have wiped a section with the damp cloth. When the furniture is sanded while damp, too much paint will come off. It's important to gradually sand all areas. After you have sanded all surfaces inside and out with power sander (using either a #220 gray foam sanding pad or #400 grit sandpaper), you are ready to hand sand the edges, corners, and moldings. Think about natural use would cause wear on doorknobs, door frames, etc. You will notice as you sand that different pressures expose varied amounts of undercoat. The doors of furniture get the most wear, so open and close the door and take notice of where your hands are. Imagine over time how much the areas are used and touched. This should help you decide what areas need to be more distressed.</p> <p>Glazing is the process of applying a translucent color to the surface, and then rubbing off the excess glaze. The trick is to really slather it on (and we mean slather), keeping the surface wet as you apply the glaze. Then just wipe off the excess until you achieve the look you want. You could use an earth-tone glaze such as <i>Van Dyke Brown</i> applied to the sanded areas and moldings of a piece of furniture to create a discolored and aged look. Or you can use glazes to create soft layers of colors. This is not a science – it is an art form!</p>


<p>Primer tips for use with Milk Paints:</p>	<p>Primer is recommended before painting. It soaks in to seal the wood and provides a good base for the paint to adhere to. Always use primer on anything with heavy, open grain woods such as oak, and on dark woods such as alder if you are painting a light color. Use <i>Brick Red Milk Paint</i> as a primer for darker colors, or just an extra coat of your selected <i>Milk Paint</i>. Use White Primer for light colors such as Snow White, Buttermilk Yellow, Sage Green, and Antique White. Mix primer thoroughly, then apply evenly with the grain using a foam Poly Brush or Handi Painter pad applicator. Milk Paint products may also be sprayed. Refer to www.generalfinishes.com for detailed instructions. Normal dry time is two-4 hours. Heavy coats, high humidity, and cooler temperatures will lengthen dry time up to 8-10 hours.</p>
---	--


<p>Other good stuff to know:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unless instructions say otherwise, let product dry between coats as per instructions on the can. 2. Don't be stingy when applying water base products. Load up the foam brush or handi-painter with product and apply liberally, keeping the surface wet until you are prepared to remove the excess. 3. We love using Handi Painter paint pads or Jen foam brushes (the kind with wood handles). Just remember that when Handi Painter Pads are new, they shed. Be SURE to brush or rinse off any fuzz before using. 4. Buy enough foam brushes and paint pads. We always have several either in use or rinsed and drying at the same time. 5. Paper plates covered in aluminum foil provide the perfect container for application. So do McDonald's salad bowls – please wash first. 6. When using oil base products, be sure to dispose of any left over product and application materials according to label instructions. 7. When staining door and drawer knobs, set the knobs in the bottom of a cardboard box for easy finish application. Simply cut slots in the cardboard, and slide the screws (with the knobs attached) into the slots to make them free standing. 8. We recommend using waterbase products on any woods that penetrate easily, such as pine or aspen, to reduce the blotching caused by oilbase stains.
---	---

Design Inspiration Collection

	<p>Little Pink Cabinet Paint on two to three coats of <i>Little Pink Milk Paint</i> painted on with a foam brush. For extra protection, topcoat with <i>Waterbase Polyacrylic Blend</i> or <i>Waterbase High Performance Urethane</i>. Application note: when working with pine, use a coat of <i>White Milk Paint Primer</i> that contains a knot sealer. Primer helps conceal pine grain and knots, but may not prevent Mother Nature from taking her course – knots may bleed through eventually anyway!</p>
---	---

	<p>Two Door Pantry Paint on two to three coats Antique White Milk Paint – painted on with a Handi Painter pad or foam brush. Then sand along the edges and the raised panels with a hand sander (120) grit paper) to reveal the the bare wood underneath. Using the product LIBERALLY, glaze over the Milk Paint with Van Dyke Brown Glaze to create a rustic look. For optional extra protection, topcoat with Polyacrylic Blend or High Performance Urethane. Application note: when working with pine, you may first wish to use a coat of <i>White Milk Paint Primer</i>.</p>
---	---

	<p>Basil Green Hutch Paint on two to three coats of <i>Basil Milk Paint</i> to the exterior with a Handi Painter pad or foam brush. The interior back, buffet top, and door/drawer pulls are finished in <i>Early American Waterbase Wood Stain, with GF Waterbase Polyacrylic Satin top coat</i>. For optional extra protection, topcoat the painted surfaces with <i>GF Waterbase Polyacrylic Blend</i> or <i>GF Waterbase High Performance Urethane</i>. Application note: If working with pine, you may first wish to use a coat of White Milk Paint Primer under the painted surfaces.</p>
---	---

	<p>Blue Toy Chest Paint on two to three coats of <i>Little Boy Blue Milk Paint</i> with a foam brush or Handi Painter pad. For extra protection, topcoat with <i>Polyacrylic Blend</i> or <i>High Performance Urethane</i>. Application note: when working with pine, use a coat of <i>White Milk Paint Primer</i>. Primer helps conceal pine grain and knots, but may not prevent Mother Nature from taking her course – knots may bleed through eventually anyway!</p>
---	--

	<p>Blue Bed Paint on two to three coats of <i>Little Boy Blue Milk Paint</i> with a foam brush or Handi Painter pad. For extra protection, topcoat with <i>Polyacrylic Blend</i> or <i>High Performance Urethane</i>. Application note: when working with pine, use a coat of <i>White Milk Paint Primer</i>. Primer helps conceal pine grain and knots, but may not prevent Mother Nature from taking her course – knots may bleed through eventually anyway.</p>
	<p>Red Bed Paint on two to three coats of <i>Chili Pepper Milk Paint</i> with a foam brush or Handi Painter pad. For extra protection, topcoat with <i>Polyacrylic Blend</i> or <i>High Performance Urethane</i>. Application note: when working with pine, use a coat of <i>Brick Red</i> as a Primer.</p>
	<p>White Bed Paint on two to three coats of <i>Antique White Milk Paint</i> painted on with a foam brush or Handi Painter pad. For extra protection, topcoat with <i>Waterbase Polyacrylic Blend</i> or <i>High Performance Urethane</i>. Application note: when working with pine, use a coat of <i>White Milk Paint Primer</i></p>
	<p>Antiqued, glazed Black Entertainment Armoire Paint on two to three coats Lamp Black Milk Paint – painted on with a Handi Painter pad or foam brush. Then sand along the edges and the raised panels with a hand sander (120) grit paper) to reveal the bare wood underneath. Using the product LIBERALLY (and we mean really slather it on), glaze over the Milk Paint with Red Sienna Glaze to create a rustic look. For optional extra protection, topcoat with <i>Waterbase Polyacrylic Blend</i> or <i>Waterbase High Performance Urethane</i>.</p>
	<p>Red Armoire Paint on two to three coats <i>Red Pepper Milk Paint</i> to the exterior with a Handi Painter pad or foam brush. The interior was completed with a blend of <i>Sierra Gold</i> and <i>Red Pepper</i>, mixed by eye until the desired color was achieved. For optional extra protection, topcoat with <i>Waterbase Polyacrylic Blend</i> or <i>Waterbase High Performance Urethane</i>.</p>
	<p>Green Chair Paint on two to three coats of <i>Basil Milk Paint</i> with a Handi Painter pad or foam brush. For optional extra protection, topcoat the painted surfaces with <i>Waterbase Polyacrylic Blend</i> or <i>Waterbase High Performance Urethane</i>. Application note: If working with pine, you may first wish to use a coat of <i>White Milk Paint Primer</i>.</p>
	<p>Black Chair Paint on two to three coats of <i>Lamp Black Milk Paint</i> with a Handi Painter pad or foam brush. For optional extra protection, topcoat the painted surfaces with <i>Waterbase Polyacrylic Blend</i> or <i>Waterbase High Performance Urethane</i>.</p>
	<p>Antique White Chair Paint on two to three coats of <i>Antique White Milk Paint</i> with a foam brush or Handi Painter pad. For extra protection, topcoat with <i>Polyacrylic Blend</i> or <i>High Performance Urethane</i>. Application note: when working with pine, use a coat of <i>White Milk Paint Primer</i>. Primer helps conceal pine grain and knots, but may not prevent Mother Nature from taking her course – knots may bleed through eventually anyway.</p>

**Black Console Table**

Paint on two to three coats of *Lamp Black Milk Paint* with a Handi Painter pad or foam brush. For optional extra protection, topcoat the painted surfaces with *Waterbase Polyacrylic Blend* or *Waterbase High Performance Urethane*.

**Red Bench**

Paint on two to three coats *Red Pepper Milk Paint* to the exterior with a Handi Painter pad or foam brush. For optional extra protection, topcoat with *Waterbase Polyacrylic Blend* or *Waterbase High Performance Urethane*.