

MITREPLAN PROJECT PLANNER

Use timber stains and finishes



- **An easy-to-follow guide to achieving a perfect result.**
- **Outlines all the tools you will need for the job.**
- **Includes a materials checklist.**

PLEASE NOTE:

Before starting this project or buying any materials, it is worth your time to read all steps thoroughly first to be sure you understand what is required.

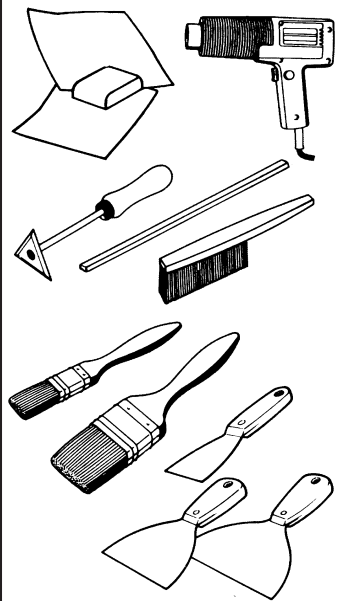
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MIGHTY HELPFUL™ MITRE 10

MIGHTY TOOLS FOR YOUR MITREPLAN



Our experienced Mitre 10 staff will be pleased to assist you with all the materials and advice that you will need, to make your next painting project a complete success.

✓ MIGHTY HELPFUL CHECKLIST

	ORDER
Preparation	
Masking tape	
Drop cloth	
Paint scraper	
Heat gun	
Wire brush	
Sugar soap	
Paint stripper	
Sandpaper – fine, medium and coarse	
Sanding block	
Orbital sander or angle grinder	
Coloured caulk	
Gap filler	
Putty and filling knives	
Silicone	
Disposable overalls	
Goggles	
Gloves	
Dust mask	
Application	
Selected stain or timber finish	
Paint pot	
Paint stirrer	
Paint brush	
Edging tool	
Paint pad	
Roller frame & cover	
Spray gun	
Roller tray	
Roller extension handle	
Ladder – step or extension	
Primer	
Undercoat	
Clean up	
Mineral turpentine	
Brush comb	
Rags	

Verbal quotes are indicative only. Written quotes on materials are available upon request from your Mitre 10 store.

Do-it-yourself and save – with a little help from Mitre 10.

Outside the home or inside, timber needs care and protection if it is to look good and not deteriorate. You could paint it, of course. But, if you want a protective finish that will not hide the timber's natural beauty, the answer is to use one of the many pigmented stains, clear surface finishes and waxes available today. These stains and finishes help to enhance the timber's natural characteristic grain and texture and can give even common timbers a distinctive appearance.

Only two things are needed to achieve good timber staining and finishing results – the right timber finish for the job and the right information. This MitrePlan sets out to provide you with both and make it easy for you to achieve results you can be proud of.

Estimate your quantities

Coverage of your stain or finish will depend on the type of product you've selected and the absorbency of your timber.

First, determine the size of the area to be finished. For large jobs, such as an outside weatherboard wall, multiply the width by the height, then subtract door and window areas from the total. Then check the maker's label for estimated coverage in square metres per litre.

For smaller jobs, a 250ml can of timber stain will cover approximately 3 to 4 sq. metres, enough to finish a medium size chest of drawers, a desk, four chairs or a book case.

Step 1: Which finish, where?

There's a variety of stains and surface finishes on the market which will protect and beautify timber while preserving its natural look. Here's a quick run-down on some of the types available and where they can be used.

Inside, dye stains give a beautiful result on cabinet timbers, cupboards, doors and panelling. For pine and whitewood furniture pigment stains are popular for adding colour without hiding grain – they're available in decorator colours as well as timber tones. Clear pine finishes are intended for new, untreated pine, giving a tough satin finish to kitchen cupboards, doors, panelling, furniture and bookshelves. Clear polyurethane finishes are commonly used to seal and protect other finishes, although the hard gloss, satin or matt finish is attractive in its own right. Staining and finishing can also be done in one easy step with satin waxes. Penetrating polyurethane scandinavian oils produce a soft, lustrous 'hand-rubbed' finish on door trims, panelling, furniture and cabinets. Antique finishes range from provincial to early American to modern colours and timber tones for panelling, cupboards and old and new furniture.

For exteriors, opaque timber stains are traditional penetrating oil based stains and popular for gables, weatherboards, windows, fascias, pergolas and fences as they have considerable hiding power while retaining the timber's natural character. See-through timber stains are lightly pigmented yet semi-transparent to allow grain and texture to show on decks, patios, fences, beams, weatherboards and windows. For areas exposed to strong sunlight, try one of the new, clear, transparent acrylic finishes. They'll provide a hardwearing finish without obscuring the original colour, grain and texture of exterior timbers such as cedar and oregon. For outdoor furniture, one of the specialised garden furniture finishes is the answer, in either solid or see-through cover.

Accent Deck Oil is suitable for all timber species and is recommended for use on exterior decks, pergolas, stairs and handrails. Available in natural or four popular decking colours. Accent timber wash is a revolutionary timber finish formulated to enhance the natural grain of bare timber with a gentle wash of colour.

If you've got any problems about deciding, visit your Mitre 10 store and talk to one of our experts.

Step 2: Pick your colour

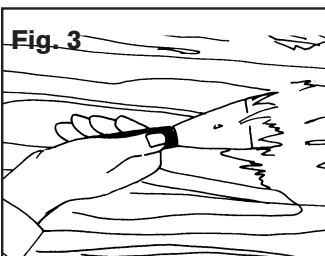
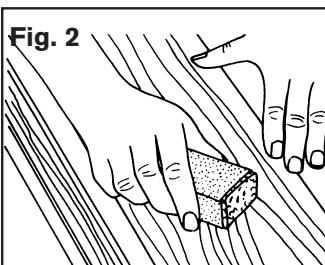
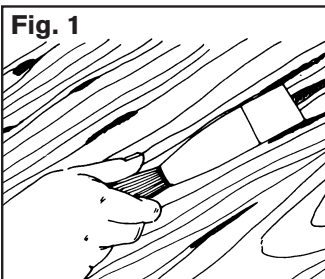
When choosing stain colours, remember that the shade may be slightly different to that shown on the colour chart. This is due to the basic colour of the timber and its absorbency. For example, you will naturally get a different effect on white pine to that on a dark, reddish maple.

As a general rule, the lighter the stain colour, the more it will be affected by the colour of your timber. Additional coats will intensify colour. And most stains will darken as they dry.

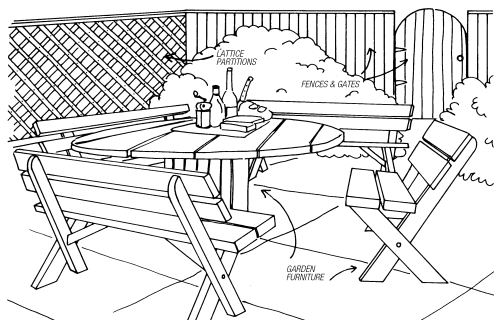
Step 4: Preparation

Interior & Furniture

Before finishing, remove all traces of dirt, oil, grease and wax. Rub the surface vigorously with fine steel wool.



Some exterior uses of timber stain



New Surfaces

Sanding is the most important stage in surface preparation – especially when clear finishing is wanted. All nail holes and cracks should be filled beforehand (Fig. 1). Watty! Woodstop is ideal for a clear finish as it is available in a good range of natural wood colours. Apply with your putty knife and leave a small amount standing above the surface and sand smooth when dry.

Always sand along the grain – sanding across the grain will leave scratches. If it requires sanding with coarse paper first, remember to use progressively finer paper and the last should be No. 0 sand paper. Smoothness is better judged by touch than by sight – test by running your hand over the surface.

On flat surfaces, wrap the paper around your sanding block and sand with a firm, even pressure (Fig. 2). Keep the block level at the edges, or else they will become rounded. For rounded surfaces, sand without the block.

For difficult to reach parts, such as grooves in furniture legs, cut the paper into small strips.

It is always best to sand by hand. An orbital sander saves time, but leaves tiny circular scratches which have to be removed by hand. A disc sander is an absolute no-no for this kind of work – it cuts against the grain and leaves deep scratches.

Previously finished surfaces

The finish on a previously stained or varnished surface may have to be stripped before re-finishing. This will depend largely on the type of finish you're applying. If a clear finish is required and the timber has been previously treated with a penetrating stain, the surface will have to be sanded back to remove the unwanted colour. No stripper will remove it. A heat stripper to soften the old surface makes it easy to scrape off with a scrapping knife, or use Accent paint remover if you prefer. Take care when scrapping or sanding to work along the grain (Fig. 3). When the previous coat has been removed, prepare as for new surfaces.

Exterior

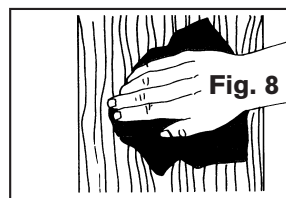
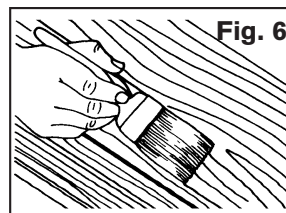
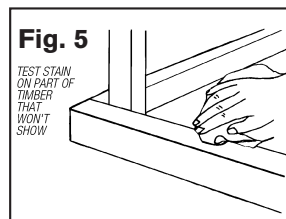
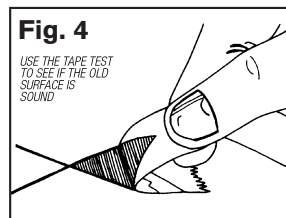
The end result depends on the surface being dry and free from all dust, dirt, wax, grease or oil. If needed, wash with household detergent. Exposed nail heads, if not galvanised, should be punched below the surface and the holes filled with an exterior grade putty to prevent rust stains and colour matched to your finish, then sanded smooth. To avoid smearing putty into the grain, apply a coat of stain finish before filling holes.

New timber

Remove any loose fibres on rough sawn timber by rubbing with a wire brush. Then lightly sand with a fine grade sandpaper.

Previously coated timber

Make sure the surface is in sound condition, clean and uniformly absorbent. If it's a painted surface and you're unsure just how bad it is, try the tape test (Fig. 4). Scratch the surface with a razor blade and press on a finger length of masking tape. Then rip off. If some of the old coat comes off, the surface should be stripped. Remove any loose or flaking finish.



For large areas, a heat stripper can be used, but avoid using around windows – the heat may crack the glass. Use Accent paint remover instead. Then sand the surface smooth, working along the grain. Always finish sanding with a fine grade paper. Steel wool shouldn't be used outside as any steel fragments caught in the fibres could rust.

Remember that any surface previously treated with a penetrating stain will have to be completely sanded back to remove all colour if a clear finish or new stain colour is required.

Step 5: Applying the finish

General

When using a stain, test first on a part of the timber which doesn't show to tell you if the stain colour needs to be lightened by thinning (Fig. 5). If the stain colour appears too strong, thin according to instructions on the can.

Interior

The first thing for inside finishing of large areas is to clear the way. Remove furniture or place it in the centre of the room covered with drop sheets and remove anything that could be damaged by drips and spatters. If finishing furniture, place it on a drop sheet or pieces of newspaper.

Exterior

Flyscreens and shutters should be removed and plants covered with a drop sheet. Use a drop sheet also to protect paths, patios and driveways.

Check the temperature before starting, too. Read the product's label for penetration and recoating times. Varying temperatures can affect drying and subsequent timber staining effects. In fact, some products should not be applied under 10°C or when it is expected to fall under 10°C during the drying time.

Application

Apply your desired finish according to the manufacturer's directions on the label. Many finishes can be applied by using a quality brush, roller or spray unit (a quick and easy way to cover large areas like fences and decking), while more traditional stains are best applied by wiping on with a clean, soft cloth pad.

If applying by brush, always brush well out along the length of timber when using a penetrating oil resin based wood stain (Fig. 6). When using a surface coating such as clear or pigmented acrylic finishes, avoid over brushing and flow the finish on. Plan your work to avoid lap marks when working on large areas. Always work towards a natural break such as a door, window or extreme end on the timber before stopping.

Stains applied by cloth pad should be wiped on liberally along the grain (Fig. 7). Do only one section at a time, ensuring that the stain isn't rubbed out too thinly as this can cause a streaky appearance. When the surface has been stained and while it is still quite wet, wipe lightly along the grain with a clean soft cloth to remove excess (Fig. 8). The time to do this can vary. Some stains should be wiped off straight away, while others can be left from one to three minutes depending on the weather before wiping off the excess vigorously. Be sure to always follow the directions on the can.

A clear polyurethane finish such as Instant Estapol or Danish Oil can then be applied for hard-wearing protection and an extra touch of beauty.

Now, all that's left is to stand back and admire your handywork.

MIGHTY HELPFUL HINTS TO MAKE THE JOB EASIER

- Bruises, such as hammer marks, which haven't broken the timber fibres can be removed using a hot iron through a damp cloth.
- If you find your chosen stain too pale, add extra coats to darken the timber.
- It's usually best to apply interior stains with a brush first and then wipe with a soft cloth for an even finish.
- When finishing outside, don't forget the end grain, or water can seep in and rot will start.
- If insects are caught in the wet finish, wait to remove them until the surface is dry, then sand the insect away and touch up the area.

Use timber stains and finishes



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WARNING: There may be by laws or regulations of councils or other statutory bodies that you must comply with when following this MitrePlan Project Planner.

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