**Can I apply stain over stain**

After reading this article, you will finally get the answer to the question, what does staining wood do for your wood property? Staining or repainting allows you to accentuate the colors of real wood, gives you the opportunity to show the gorgeous texture created by different woods and takes your woodworking to a level of professionalism in just 1 coat.

But today we're going to talk about, can you apply stain over existing wood paint? If you want to know the answer to this question, keep reading our article.

**Different types of wood stain**

What is wood stain, what types exist and what is the difference between them? If you compare unpainted wood and already stained wood, you will find a huge visible difference in the colors of each piece. This is because stained wood has a richer hue and the different grains of wood look more intense. In addition, the painted wood surface is smoother to the touch. Staining or repainting wood will give life to its fibers and texture, preserve its look, and make any wood treatment process better. There are various types of staining, but it's essential that you know how to combine them correctly.

**Oil-Based Wood Stain.**

An oil-based stain for wooden is 1 of the more recommended available today. It provides maximum preservation of the pigment on the wooden surface. The basic component of an oil stain for wooden is flaxseed oil.To facilitate the work, some manufacturers stains can be applied on top of stains that have already been applied to the woodwork. So, what is a stain, what types exist and what is the difference between them? If you compare unpainted wood and already stained wood, you will find a huge visible difference in the colors of each product. This is due to the fact that stained wood has a richer hue, and the different grains look more intense. In addition, the surface of stained wood will be smoother to the touch. Tinting or repainting wood will give life to its fibers and texture, preserve its appearance, and make any woodworking process more perfect. There are different types of staining, but it is important to know how to combine them properly.

**Water-based wood stain**

A water-based wood stain is one of the most popular types of wood stains today. It provides maximum preservation of the pigment on the wooden surface. The main ingredient in an oil-based wood stain is linseed oil. To facilitate the work, some manufacturers prefer to add mineral spirits or thinner to the composition, thus making a more liquid texture. However, this is the most harmless way to apply to the wood surface, as other companies use less chemicals, making the composition less toxic, so after drying and curing it can cause food discomfort.

We recommend not to use aqueous bases coatings if you choose to apply a finish, due to the fact that the water and oil do not mingle. Water-based wood stain is the perfect option for you if you really love nature and are trying your best to preserve it. In addition, it is not difficult to clean your workplace with it, as water can help in the process. Most often they do not contain chemicals, so they are much safer and harmless to the earth and its nature. Also, compared to oil paints, they can be worked on much easier and take much less drying times. They're more easily sprayed, too, making it less time consuming to paint and easier to get a smooth surface. This type of stain penetrates deeply into the wood and therefore provides little protection. Solvents, such as varnish, can be added to the stain to slow the drying time. These solvents will shorten the drying time of the water-based stain. Be careful when using these solvents as they will dull the color of the stain, making it translucent.

**Gel paints for wood**

Helium paint is much easier to apply because it is thicker than oil and water-based paints. In addition, it can also be applied to a vertical plane and you don't have to worry about ruining the look of a wooden object with drips, because it doesn't drip. Helium paints are varnish-based or oil-based. They are pigmented wood paints that form a film on the wooden surface when dry. They are therefore suitable for application over stain. Helium stains are also used to cover existing stains or previously applied stains and paints.

Make sure your workplace is properly ventilated and use protective equipment. Helium dyes can cause dirt because of their consistency.

It is best to apply a thin coat on a wooden surface for use. To maintain a thin coat, wipe off the excess with a rag. A thick coat of stain leads to a longer drying time and can also cause drying problems.

If you want to paint the wood in dark colors, then the ideal option would be, the use of helium paints, which can be applied over polyurethane, it is convenient.

**Lacquers or lacquer coatings**

Sometimes a varnish, or maybe even a coat of varnish, is preferred to finish a wood product. Both of these products have some pigment content, so they are like a sealer and a stain in one product.

They often contain pigments that give an effect that is not inferior to painting wood. However, in turn they are covered with a transparent film-forming layer that seals and protects the wood.

Polyurethane varnishes are artificial resins, once the surface has been applied varnish, it becomes resistant to spills of acids and other chemicals.

It is recommended to use a brush so that the application is as effective as possible. If you prefer a smoother and more flawless surface, it is better to use an aerosol varnish. There is no need to apply a finish coat, as the varnish dries into a hard and protective coating after the process is complete.

**Water-soluble paint**

Water-soluble dyes come in the form of a powdered substance that is diluted in water to make a suitable solution. They were used as dyes for textiles and then recycled.

When using this type of dye, it is recommended to cover it with a sealer, also transparent, in order not to deepen the color in an undesirable way. Water-soluble stain will dissolve in contact with water, so it is better to use this paint for interior work, as the pigments are exposed to ultraviolet radiation.

Many craftsmen and hobbyists working with wood already know that a stain can be applied over a stain. But if you wish to use a darker or lighter stain, there are a number of steps that need to be taken.

When it comes time to make the necessary corrections to your existing woodwork staining, you must first choose a stain. Follow these steps to successfully touch up your furniture.

**Wood processing**

Each paint has its pros and cons, and each has a different effect on the wood.

1. Oil paint:

You need to apply a darker shade, and make sure you overlap it with another oil-based stain.

2. Water-based paint:

You should also use a darker shade, and it can also be used to fix existing water-based stains.

3. Helium paint:

You can use gel paint to apply over the polyurethane coating, but be sure to use a darker tone.

4. Lacquer:

The first thing to do when applying paint over varnish is to first remove the varnish using a varnish remover

5. Water-soluble paint:

When repainting, be sure to use a darker shade.

**Tools and materials that will be needed**

To properly coat a wooden surface with paint, you will need appliances and tools such as:

- Wood stain of your choice

- Sealant

- Sanding machine

- Gloves for your hands

- Dry rags

- Lint-free rags

- Gauze

- Foam brush

- Fine sandpaper

- Steel wool

**Different types of wood paints**

Once you have learned about the different types of paints, you need to start researching how to preserve the wood. If you originally used a polyurethane stain, you need to know what you can stain polyurethane with, because not every paint succeeds in preserving wood with this type of coating.

**How to stain wood a darker color**

From the very beginning, you should understand that applying stain over stain, a possible thing. But there can be a little difficulty with this. Because you need to know exactly what kind of stain is applied and whether it will be compatible with yours at all.

Also, keep in mind that the color of your stain will affect both the existing stain and the new stain applied, but usually it will be darker, which is what we are trying to achieve, except when the stain applied over the original stain has such a light pigment that it is almost transparent.

When staining over a stain with a medium level of pigment and for a richer shade, it is advisable to use a darker shade of stain than the original stain.

You can even manipulate the color shift of the wood by adding a stain with a red hue - such as "Cherry" - to give a warmer effect.

**Disassembly and preparation for work**

Rather, remove all unnecessary parts from your woodwork on which you want to apply stain.

Any doorknobs on your doors, handles on cabinets and drawers, and extra shelves in them all need to be removed so that you can easily apply stain without any obstructions.

Prepare your workspace by laying a plastic tarp on the floor to keep the soil underneath. Make sure your space has a roof if you are not working indoors. If you are working indoors, make sure windows are open and there is adequate ventilation.

**Staining Over Stain**

If you want to learn how to repaint wood, realize that your stain may not hold up too well if the original treatment was done with a polyurethane finish.

In that case, you need to apply a polyurethane stain. Otherwise, it will have to be stripped or sanded off for additional adhesion before a new coat of stain can be applied.

If the existing stain is oil-based, you'll need to take care of another oil-based stain or gel stain to give the wood strength.

Use a little TSP soap or a special degreased to clean the surface before applying the fresh stain. If there are particles of dust or dirt left on the surface, this will prevent the stain from sticking, or it will look uneven.

You can also try sanding the surface with a very fine grit emery cloth, this will make the surface more textured, which helps the stain adhere better to the surface. Again, don't forget to remove any sandpaper residue.

The stain can be applied by your preferred method, either with a cloth or with a sprayer. However, spray it generously because you may apply more of it. If you can find them, you can also use stain pads, which will make the application process easier and give you a smooth surface.

**Mixing Colors**

Indeed, you can mix two colors of stain to get your individual color. For example, you can use two common types of stain, regular and gel, to create a mixture of colored stain for your project. The ratio for such a mixture depends on what color you want to get

**Adding tinting and topcoat**

Toner in spray form is a great way to give the color of wood products a richer shade. In addition, the toner is able to remove unwanted yellow and green tints.

This will allow you to prevent the need to apply so many layers of stain that the real wood will no longer be visible.

Such coatings and toners also help to extend the life of your property because they add additional protective properties to the surface.

**Grinding work**

If the top coat of your wood product has weathered over time, you may need to sand it down to smooth out any uneven or peeling areas. This may seem like a bit of a chore, but you will appreciate the effort.

You can use 80 grit sandpaper and go over the entire surface with it to remove as much of the top layer as possible. When you are done with this grit, you can increase it to 200 or 220 and also go over the surface lightly. If possible, you can use a sander, a so-called orbital sander.

**Chemical Stripper**

The top coat on a machine can sometimes be very dense and difficult to remove with sandpaper. To remove paint and other coatings from wood, you may need a chemical stripper.

Delicate items like your vintage furniture will appreciate a chemical paint stripper because sandpaper can be too rough and cause irreparable damage.

Make sure you have the necessary personal protective equipment, such as a breathing mask, eye mask and hand gloves.

These products are great developments, also if you are working with tight deadlines, you should use them as they remove any coatings very quickly. Immediately after applying the top coat, bubbles will begin to form on the wood and separate from its surface. You can start scraping away the remaining pieces with a palette knife or paint scraper.

If you are unable to remove the stain, you may need to reapply the stain remover to the stubborn areas. If you can't remove the stain with a stripper alone, we recommend using steel wool in conjunction with a stripper.

After you have removed the stain from the wooden surface, you need to make sure that all traces of dirt and dust are removed from the wooden surface. To do this, use a cloth or tissue. After that, you can start applying wood paint using the aforementioned methods.

**Collect and enjoy**

After completing the staining process, you must make sure that you have waited the proper amount of time, as specified by the manufacturers, for the stain to dry and cure. You will find this condition on the label on the product packaging, you just have to unwrap the paint bottle to read the fine print.

This is important, because if you re-install the elements that you removed in the second step, you can ruin all your work. The drying and curing time can take anywhere from ten hours to 24 hours. When the glue hardens, you can reattach all the pieces you removed.

**Can you stain over stain without sanding?**

No, because applying stain without sanding will cause the dirt on the surface will not allow the stain to adhere well, and bubbles may appear and the surface itself will be uneven.

**Do I need to remove all the stains before re-staining?**

It will all depend on what kind of stain you have and if it is compatible. Some, cannot be applied on top of another stain, in which case, you will have to remove the first coat.

**Can you stain over finished stain?**

If the finished paint is already dry and compatible with the one you want to paint.

**Can you put a darker stain on already stained wood?**

You can and in most cases you should, as applying a lighter shade can only make the color worse. That's why using darker tones is a great option.