

Briwax Original Wax

Briwax Original Wax is the **easiest and most traditional finish** for bare timber or restoring existing finished furniture. It has been made to the same formula for over 150 years.

Briwax Original **Clear Wax can safely be used over almost all existing finishes**, including polyurethane, and re-applied at any time to maintain and enhance the sheen. It **prolongs the life** of the existing finish by preventing it from drying out and cracking. It's used by antique dealers and furniture restorers because it's **safe to use on valuable antiques**, even when you don't know what finishes have been used beforehand.

Briwax Original Wax is **also available in nine colours**, to stain and finish timber in one application. Coloured wax is particularly useful to refinish scratched or damaged timber, as it stains and blends in the lighter scratched areas.

Briwax Original Wax does not make the surface sticky or slippery, as it dries completely to a very hard finish (unlike a simple beeswax or cream polish).

On bare timber:

- **Apply Briwax Original Wax** *thinly* with a cloth (such as cheesecloth).
- After a few minutes, use a shoe brush (or other soft-bristled brush) to **even out** the wax on the surface. With the coloured waxes, this will even out the colour.
- **Buff the surface** with a clean cloth after about an hour (or anytime later).
- A second coat is not required, but will add to the sheen. After allowing the wax to dry fully for an hour, either apply it directly or sand the surface lightly with old 400-grit sandpaper first. This burnishes the existing wax surface to prevent the second coat removing the first. With coloured waxes, two coats will darken the colour slightly.
- To lighten the colour after applying the first coat, apply clear wax as the second coat. This second coat will lift out some of the stain from the first coat.

Over existing finishes:

- Instead of a cloth, apply the wax using **Briwax Grade 0000 Steel Wool**. Using steel wool slightly cuts into the existing finish, and ensures that only a very thin layer of wax is applied. Again, use the shoe brush after a few minutes to even out the colour and then buff the finish with a clean cloth after about an hour.

Troubleshooting:

- Almost all problems with the wax are a result of applying too much wax. A heavy build-up of wax will make it hard to buff up the surface. To remove the build-up of wax, apply another coat using grade 0000 steel wool. The solvents in the newly applied wax will remove the existing wax finish and the steel wool will remove it from the surface. Use the shoe brush as above and the surface should buff up well.

Care for wax finishes:

- Wax finishes shouldn't get wet, so we don't suggest using wax on kitchen benchtops, bathroom floors, or outdoors. However, we have had surprising success waxing external timber doors. The biggest issue is likely to be watermarking of the surface.
- If you get **watermarks** on a waxed finish, apply a little more wax with a cloth or fine steel wool, and buff up the finish. For more serious watermarks, try lightly sanding the surface first and then applying more wax with a cloth, buffing off afterwards as above.
- Wax finishes are a traditional finish, and you should treat the furniture like your grandmother would – don't place cups or hot items directly on to the surface.
- Avoid using modern synthetic silicone or wax 'polishes' such as those in cans available in supermarkets. If the surface becomes dull, buff it up by rubbing with a soft cloth. If it won't buff up, that's a sign that you need to apply a little more wax to the surface. This might be every few months for a table, every few years for panelling or other furniture.

Other things to know about Briwax Original Wax:

- Briwax Original Wax contains strong solvents, which act as a **cleaner** during application of the wax. The solvents remove the old wax and any dirt while the new wax is being applied. For this reason, Briwax Original Wax can be applied even over dirty surfaces and **will remove paint spots and many stains**. For more cleaning power, use grade 0000 steel wool to apply the wax.
- The coloured waxes describe the finish when used over bare pine. For example, Briwax Rimu Wax will colour bare pine furniture to make it look very much like Rimu in one application. If you are waxing existing Rimu timber and are happy with the colour, use Clear wax (not Rimu wax, which will make the colour much darker).
- To remove Briwax Original Wax, use Briwax Furniture Cleaner.
- To **repair scratched or damaged furniture**, panelling, skirting boards and so on, use a coloured wax. The stain in the wax penetrates the bare timber more than the rest of the surface, and blends the entire finish together. Use a lighter coloured wax than you might expect, otherwise the scratches will become too dark and still stand out.
- When waxing **floorboards**, use Honey coloured wax rather than clear. Clear wax can dry in gaps between the boards and look lighter, emphasising any gaps or holes.
- For an **antique** or "shabby chic" look, paint the wood first and seal the paint with a coat of Briwax Danish Oil. Then apply coloured wax sparingly and brush it off into the corners and recesses of the timber. Choose a light colour for a subtle effect, or a darker coloured wax for a more distressed look.
- Briwax Original Clear Wax can be used over **vinyl tiles, linoleum, terracotta** and other unsealed tiles to clean and protect the surface. The solvents in the wax will remove black shoe marks, scuffs, small paint marks, and stains. The wax finish will protect the surface in the future. Don't use coloured wax on these surfaces.
- Use clear wax to **protect metal surfaces** such as scissors, secateurs, window and door fittings, and so on. A very thin coat of wax protects the metal, preventing fingermarks from tarnishing the finish.