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Traditional Amber Urethane Application Guidelines English

The application of Bristol Finish requires the same basic preparation steps as any conventional varnish or paint product. The old saying is completely true - proper preparation and application accounts for 90% of the final appearance and performance.

For helpful articles and expert advice on preparation, refinishing techniques, and much more, please visit www.bristolfinish.com. See the Material Safety Data Sheet on our website for safety, spill control, and waste disposal information.

Application Conditions

Compatibility: Surfaces to be coated must be clean, dry, and smooth. Bristol finish may be applied on bare wood; epoxy-saturated wood; over wood stains, sealers, and over existing varnish or Cetol if the finish is in good condition. Old coatings in poor condition must be removed. Teak oil must be completely removed by using a two-step teak cleaner. Check compatibility with existing coatings and stains on a small area before coating large areas.

Working Conditions: Bristol finish may be used in full sun or shade. You may apply in temperatures from 32 to 120 degrees Fahrenheit (0 to 49 degrees Celcius) and relative humidity of 0% to 99%. Lower temperatures can cause longer dry and cure times. High temperatures cause more rapid drying. Neither have any effect on appearance, durability, or performance. Very windy conditions may cause bubbles. Allow a minimum of four hours after application before dew forms to avoid a dull appearance (blush).

Pot Life: The working time of the catalyzed mixture is approximately two hours at 85 degrees Fahrenheit (29 degrees Celcius), approximately four hours at 70 degrees Fahrenheit (21 degrees Celcius) and longer in cooler conditions. When not in use, cover the working mixture container and store in the shade or cool location.

Cure times: Allow a minimum of 24 hours before normal use when temperatures are above 70 degrees Fahrenheit (21 degrees Celcius). More time (36 to 48 hours) will be required in colder temperatures, or when working indoors with inadequate movement.

Application Equipment

Mixing and Application: Mixing and application equipment must be clean to avoid contamination. Use good quality natural bristle or high quality foam brushes. For roller application, use urethane rated roller covers. Do not use brushes that have been used to apply other coatings, or that have been soaked in mineral spirits. Do not use stirring sticks that have been used in other coatings or paint.

Measuring: For measuring, use a kitchen measuring cup or disposable plastic paint mixing cup. The working container may be a plastic, paper, glass, or metal container. Do not use plastic drink cups or waxed containers.

Cleanup: Use acetone or lacquer thinner for cleanup. Clean up spills immediately. If spills are cured, use gelcoat safe paint remover. Remove Bristol Finish from skin using commercial hand cleaner.

Preparation Procedures

All joints must be fully sealed (glued or caulked) to prevent moisture intrusion and lifting of the coating. Clean joints and caulk as required with 3M 5200. When applying tape, back the tape away from any joint by 1/32" or so, to insure that no wood is left bare.

New or Bare Wood: Sand as required up to 220 grit. Remove dust and scrub thoroughly with acetone, saturating the wood very liberally, using a clean, lint-free cloth. Do not use mineral spirits or paint thinner. Lightly wipe with a tack rag to remove any remaining dust.

Discolored Wood: For teak, use a two-step teak cleaner to remove excess oil, stains, or discoloration. For other wood types, use a mild one-step wood cleaner. Follow manufacturer's instructions and rinse thoroughly. Allow the wood to dry completely for a minimum of 24 hours.

Previously Varnished Surfaces: New coatings should be allowed to cure fully to prevent the solvents in Bristol Finish from lifting the underlying finish. Check compatibility on a small test area before coating large areas.

Wash to remove dirt and salt. Rinse thoroughly and dry. Sand by hand with 220 grit paper until uniformly smooth and dull. Use a red ScotchBrite pad for sharp corners and edges. Remove dust with acetone or lacquer thinner, then lightly wipe with a tack rag.

Application procedures

Measuring and Mixing: Stir the Urethane Base thoroughly before mixing with Catalyst. Strain if necessary. Careful measuring and thorough stirring are required.

Mixing Ratio: 8 parts by volume Urethane Base (Part A) to 1 part by volume Catalyst (Part B). Do not vary the ratio of Urethane Base to Catalyst for any reason.

Wipe the Catalyst container spout thoroughly after pouring to prevent sticking. Close container immediately after pouring.

Thinning: The viscosity should be suitable for brush, roller, or spray application. If thinning is desired, use acetone or MEK. Use 10% by volume or less. In extremely hot weather (90 degrees Fahrenheit / 32 degrees Celsius) use our Tropical Reducer to slow the dry time if required.

Application: Four coats provide minimal UV resistance and durability. Six coats are optimal. More coats are required for porous wood like mahogany, to completely fill the wood grain. More coats (up to eight) will be required for severe tropical exposure. More coats may be applied if desired for a deeper, “wet look” finish.

A good appearance is obtained only by using proper painting techniques. Lay the coating on with the brush, and brush in the direction of the wet edge. Do not over-brush the coating. Do not use an undersized brush. Use the largest brush that will fit the work.

For roller application on large areas, quickly roll the coating on a 2' x 2' or so area, and quickly stroke once with a slightly wet brush. This technique will require practice (or 2 persons) if you are not an experienced painter.

Only qualified professional operators that are familiar with 2-part coating systems should perform spraying. Use conventional pressure or HVLP equipment, and settings that are comparable with other 2-part urethane products. Adjust for personal preference.

There are three methods to choose from for application:

Wet-On-Wet Method: Apply the first coat and allow to dry to a firm tack (approximately one to two hours). Apply the second (or next) coat without sanding. Continue in this fashion until all coats are applied. When re-coating within short intervals, use light pressure on the brush to avoid brush marks and lifting the underlying coat. Use just enough brush pressure to spread the fresh coat out. Re-coat without sanding at any time up to 24 hours after the last coat was applied.

Dry Method: Apply a coat, allow to dry completely, sand and repeat. Note that when sanding between coats, potentially you must apply eight coats to end up with four coats on the surface.

Practical Method: Apply all but the last coat using the Wet-On-Wet Method described above. Don't stop because of runs, drips, or small amounts of dust. Allow to cure (12 to 36 hours) and sand with 220 grit paper until the surface is smooth and uniformly dull. Use a red ScotchBrite pad on sharp corners or edges. Remove sanding dust and wipe with acetone or lacquer thinner, then lightly wipe with a tack rag. Apply the final coat. This method gives a fast build-up and the chance to remove any defects with a minimum of labor.

If a satin or non-gloss finish is required, either apply a final coat mixed with our Satin Additive, or rub down to the desired appearance level using pumice, ScotchBrite pads or fine sandpaper.

Maintenance Requirements

In tropical latitudes, apply a maintenance coat once after 12 months. In southern latitudes, re-coat once after 18 to 24 months. In northern latitudes, re-coat once after 36 to 48 months. This will keep the finish looking new and renew the UV resistance.

Wash to remove dirt and salt. Rinse thoroughly and dry. Sand by hand with 220 grit paper until uniformly smooth and dull. Use a red ScotchBrite pad for sharp corners and edges. Remove dust with acetone or lacquer thinner, then lightly wipe with a tack rag. Apply a minimum of 1 coat and make sure there are no thin or missed areas.

More coats must be applied when repairing any damage. Build any bare spots up to the same thickness as the surrounding area. Sand the edges of repairs smooth and scuff sand the entire piece to a stopping point. Apply the maintenance coat over the entire piece.