



# Ten commandments for staining

## Technical Information

When it comes to wood finishing, the staining process starts with choosing the right wood and veneer. Differences like the colour between heartwood and sapwood, grain patterns, resin spots, how the wood absorbs stain, or wood coming from different trees or regions can make staining tricky and affect the final look. That is why it is important to think about these factors early on to get the best result.

### **First Commandment:** Careful selection of wood & veneer

Start by removing any sapwood. Make sure to use wood or veneer from the same tree for all visible surfaces. If you are arranging veneer into patterns, avoid book matching. Keep in mind that the back side of the wood can absorb stain differently than the front, which may cause a light or dark effect. Also, avoid using positive stain on fine-grained wood, as the effect will not be noticeable.

#### **Our recommendation:**

Choose wood with no more than two annual rings per centimetre of width.

For matching veneers, use only adhesive tapes with acid-free glue and ensure your supplier uses the same. Adhesives containing acid can leave residues in the wood after hot pressing, which may affect the quality of the finish.

### **Second Commandment:** Sand – moisten – re-sand.

To prevent defects, proper surface preparation for staining is essential.

Start by sanding the surface in the direction of the wood grain using medium-grit sandpaper (K 80-100). After the first sanding, wet the wood with water—use hot water for solid wood and warm water for veneered surfaces. You can also bleach the wood during this step if needed (using hydrogen peroxide or Rosner Bleach).

Before the final sanding, make sure to remove any adhesive residues, oil, grease, wax, or resin from the surface. Adhesives that bleed through should be avoided, and if you are unsure, ask the manufacturer for the correct glue. Removing residue from thermal-curing adhesives afterward is incredibly challenging. Resin can be removed with Washing Solvent 52, and for oil and grease, use light patrol or, for heavy stains, cotton-wool balls soaked in benzine. You can also mix calcium carbonate with benzine into a paste to treat grease stains. Limescale is best removed with acetic acid.

For the final sanding, use finer sandpaper (K 100-120), sanding at a slight diagonal angle first (no more than 20°) and finishing in the direction of the grain with light pressure. Always dust off thoroughly afterward, as dust left in the pores can cause patchy staining.

### **Third Commandment:**

#### Tools

When applying and storing liquid stains, use only containers that will not rust. Glass, porcelain, earthenware, and plastic containers are also good options, but avoid using damaged enamel containers.

Select small containers with a capacity of around 1 to 1.5 Liters. Larger containers can allow dust to enter the stain when dipping brushes or sponges, which can lead to unwanted reactions. Never pour leftover stain back into the storage container!

When staining, use brushes without metal ferrules. For spraying water-based stains, only use spray devices made of plastic or stainless steel. Spray guns or Airmix devices are ideal, but avoid using Airless devices, as they are not suitable.

### **Fourth Commandment:** Observe technical data sheets!

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Before you start staining, always read our technical data sheets. Following the instructions in these documents is essential for achieving the best results. If you need these documents, please do not hesitate to ask!

### Fifth Commandment: Tests

Our stain charts are based on selected woods, but since wood is a natural material, the colour after application may differ from what is shown in the chart. It is crucial to perform a test application on the specific wood or veneer you plan to use. The results can only be accurately assessed after the sample has completely dried and any final coats have been applied. We cannot take responsibility if you begin staining without conducting these tests. Always keep the stained sample for reference, as the stain chart samples are not binding.

#### Potential Causes of Staining Issues:

1. **The Wood:** Every piece of wood is unique, whether it is a timber beam, board, or veneer. Each wood type contains different dye traces, which can vary based on where the tree grows. Even trees of the same species can have different dye precursors, which react uniquely to factors like light, air, and heat during drying. Additionally, the dyes in the wood respond differently to various liquids and water compositions. For example, evaporating ammonia can change a bright Spessart oak into a deep brown colour similar to bog oak.
2. **The Stain:** When you open a water stain container, bacteria can enter and spoil the stain. If you pour leftover stain back into the original container, abrasive dust may cause unwanted chemical reactions.
3. **The Process:** Using impure stain containers or brushes with metal ferrules can also affect colour results.

Once again, we strongly emphasize: Always perform a test application! Evaluate the results, even if you already know the stain's number or description. Taking the time to conduct a careful staining test can save you from headaches and costs later on. If you are working on a larger project, make sure to use stain from a single batch. If you need more than one batch, mix them before use. When opening a new container, repeat the test staining.

### Sixth Commandment: Staining according to processing guidelines.

Depending on the type of stain, there are different application methods to follow. Avoid staining or drying near an oven or in direct sunlight. Always apply the stain in stripes and in the direction of the wood grain.

#### Guidelines:

- When the surface is adequately wet, spread the stain across the grain.
- Remove any excess stain by brushing in the direction of the grain.
- For vertical surfaces, stain from the bottom to the top to prevent spots and stripes.

Please check our technical data sheets for recommendations on stains applied using spray guns, curtain coating, roller coating, or flow coating.

Be mindful of dust during drying, as it can absorb the stain and create spots.

### Seventh Commandment:



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Grain-cut wood tends to absorb stain much more than other types. If you are planning to use a wax stain on these surfaces or on especially rippled woods, we recommend pre-treating them with Rosner Balance Solution (Equalizer). This product helps balance the various levels of stain absorption in various woods. After this pre-treatment, the colour of the stain applied will be slightly brighter once it dries.

### **Eighth Commandment:**

Special stains are created for a wide range of effects, so it is important to remember that each stain has its own unique characteristics and application methods. Keep in mind that there is no universal stain that works for every type of wood or for every purpose.

### **Ninth Commandment:**

Stains need to be recoated, except for wax stains. It is important to protect furniture and everyday items made from stained wood to ensure they remain durable and maintain their appearance over time. The quality of the coating material should match the expected wear and tear, and it should never be sacrificed for visual appeal.

Keep in mind that the colour of the stain may change based on the coating material used, such as solvent-based DuoCryl, water-based HydRo paints, NaturExpert oils, or waxes.

We offer a wide range of high-quality coating materials for all your needs.

### **Tenth Commandment:**

If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to Rosner first. With decades of experience in this industry, our sales representatives and technical customer service team are always happy to help you.

Please note that this technical data sheet replaces all previous versions.