



INTERIOR WOOD FINISHING

*Project Guide*



Think about the colors that you have always been drawn to. No matter what your design theme is color can be the unifying element that pulls each room together into a harmonious environment. There is no absolute rule about color and where particular colors must go in the home. Ultimately, it's best to go with what appeals to you instead of choosing a color scheme just because it's what everybody else thinks is hot at the moment.



#### TRADITIONAL DECORATING

When trying to achieve a traditional look, perhaps utilizing family heirlooms or garage sale finds, mix and match colors such as Cherry, Teak Natural and Provincial. These are basic wood tones that match with a mix of different colors to achieve a cohesive look. Staining your moldings to match will add the right finishing touch. Adding a little punch of color like a child's chair finished in a deep red wood stain like Merlot will add a decorative touch and personality.



#### ASIAN FLAIR

It is easy to create an exotic oriental feel that will mix with any decorating style and produce balance, serenity, beauty and comfort. This can be accomplished through the use of richly colored accents that are embellished with circles and lines. While traditional decorating encourages groups of three, Asian décor uses only one or two objects in the same space. Use colors that make you feel good. Deep wood stains like Merlot, Black Onyx and Rosewood are shades found in the Orient and can be mixed with small splashes of color from the opposite end of the color spectrum like Golden Oak which will mimic the hue of bamboo.

#### CONTEMPORARY (pictured left)

A contemporary look can be achieved with clean lines and smooth furnishings without intricate details. Today's contemporary look is a blend of comfortable, livable elements that create a sophisticated, fresh feel. Any and all colors can be used in this design style. Accent pieces are what tie all of the colors together and carry your eye throughout the room. This is the best style for mixing family heirlooms, old dorm room furniture and whatever you found on the clearance floor. Go ahead and grab the Golden Oak, Moorish Teak, Rosewood and any other wood stain color that expresses your personal style.

# Preparation



The best results will come from planning ahead and having everything you need before you start. Asking the right questions and studying the condition of the chair, table or antique heirloom you are working on will help you achieve the look you desire.

A wood finishing project is virtually three steps – **Prep, Stain and Protect**. Remember to read the labels and prepare your space with the appropriate protection, temperature, ventilation and lighting.

## RESTORING OLD WOOD

If you are going to simply restore a piece of old furniture you want to first clean the wood surface. You can use a cloth moistened with mineral spirits (paint thinner) to remove surface contaminants. If you like the color, find a ZAR Wood Stain tone that will match or have your hardware store match the color from a knob or drawer using ZAR Wood Stain Tint Base. Wipe the wood stain on bare or worn spots. Follow the directions for dry time and apply a protective finish.

## REFINISHING OLD WOOD

If the finish has begun to peel and crack or the finish is broken or chipped or the paint color is outdated, it is time to take it down to bare wood. If the stripping material raises the grain of the wood, you will have to give it a light sanding. If the finish is stubborn and will not come up with stripping material, you could try a mechanical sander.



**WARNING!** If you scrape, sand, or remove old paint, you may release lead dust. LEAD IS TOXIC. EXPOSURE TO LEAD DUST CAN CAUSE SERIOUS ILLNESS, SUCH AS BRAIN DAMAGE, ESPECIALLY IN CHILDREN. PREGNANT WOMEN SHOULD ALSO AVOID EXPOSURE. Wear a NIOSH-approved respirator to control lead exposure. Clean up carefully with a HEPA vacuum and a wet mop. Before you start, find out how to protect yourself and your family by contacting the National Lead Information Hotline at 1-800-424-LEAD or log on to [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).

## FURNITURE STRIPPING

ZAR Remover is ideal for removing old finishes from vertical or horizontal surfaces. Work on one section at a time, starting with the easy horizontal areas. Spread the remover on the surface following the label instructions. When the finish has softened, gently scrape to remove. Be careful when scraping, remember the wood will be soft and can be easily gouged. You can use steel wool on curved surfaces. Use as many coats of the stripping material as necessary to get the job done.



After you have removed the inferior finish, you may see some trouble areas such as dark rings or spots and paint remaining in the pores of the wood. You can bleach out old moisture stains with chlorine bleach. Sponge bleach over the entire surface, wait 5 to 10 minutes and wipe dry. Then apply bleach to just the stain, this will lighten the spot as it dries. Continue applying to the spot until you are satisfied with the results. To remove paint from the pores of the wood, you can apply fresh stripper and work into the wood with a nylon scrub brush or a toothbrush.

## WOOD REPAIR

Use ZAR Wood Patch to replace missing, badly damaged, or rotted wood. It can be used for everything from nail holes, nicks and cracks to major repairs. Allow patch to dry and sand according to directions. Now it is time to stain and protect your project.

## PREPARATION FOR NEW WOOD

Even new wood needs to be prepared for staining and finishing. First remove all hardware, knobs, hinges, etc.

Clean the wood surface with a cloth moistened with mineral spirits (paint thinner). Allow the surface to dry.

Use ZAR Wood Patch to fill any holes, cracks or staple marks. Follow application, dry time and sanding instructions on the product label.

Always sand the surface before applying a stain or finish. This step assures the new finish will bond to the wood.



On new unfinished wood, start with medium sandpaper such as #120 to #150 grit, and then finish with fine sandpaper, such as #220 grit, until the surface feels smooth to the touch.

On previously finished wood, use fine sandpaper, #220 grit.

Finally, remove the sanding dust. With oil-based stain and finishes, use a cloth dampened with mineral spirits. When using water-based stain and finishes, use a cloth dampened with water.



## ZAR® WOOD STAIN

Wipes on like furniture polish to stain and seal in one quick, easy application. It gives wood a natural range of color and enhances the wood grain.

### TWO NEW STAINS

OAK

PINE



170 SILK GRAY



171 SLATE GRAY

OAK

PINE



140 MERLOT



115 MODERN WALNUT



123 MOORISH TEAK



129 AMBER VARNISH

OAK

PINE



110 SALEM MAPLE



116 CHERRY



124 ROSEWOOD



138 SPANISH OAK

OAK

PINE



111 WALNUT



117 HONEY MAPLE



126 CHESTNUT



121 BLACK ONYX

OAK

PINE



113 FRUITWOOD



118 DARK MAHOGANY



127 GOLDEN OAK



119 MOCHA

OAK

PINE



120 TEAK NATURAL



128 EARLY AMERICAN



139 COASTAL BOARDS



114 PROVINCIAL

ZAR Wood Stain Tint Base available for these and other custom colors and for use as an optional wood conditioner.

### ZAR WOOD STAIN DECORATOR COLORS

OAK

PINE



109 COLONIAL PINE



135 CHARCOAL



122 MEDITERRANEAN



125 BLACK WALNUT



137 WHITE OAK



## ZAR® ULTRA MAX WOOD STAIN COLORS

ZAR ULTRA MAX Oil Modified Wood Stain applies easily and penetrates evenly for rich, uniform color. Special features include low odor, fast drying and easy cleanup. In addition, the Advanced Green Phase Resin Dispersion Technology utilizes environmentally friendly resins that result in a VOC compliant product.

ZAR ULTRA Max Wood Stain Tint Base available for custom colors and for use as an optional wood conditioner.



190 BRAZILIAN CHERRY



191 CAYENNE PEPPER



192 ESPRESSO



193 EBONY



194 JAMAICAN RUM



195 WHEAT



## ULTRA ZAR® PLUS WOOD STAIN COLORS

ULTRA ZAR PLUS is a unique combination of stain and polyurethane-in-one that lets you brush on rich color and lasting protection in less than half the time. Choose from six wood tones available in gloss or satin sheens.



HONEY MAPLE



DARK MAHOGANY



TEAK NATURAL



SALEM MAPLE



FRUITWOOD



CHERRY

Create a beautiful, rich finish by following these simple steps for staining.

- 1 Test the color of the stain on a hidden area, or on a scrap piece of the wood you intend to stain. Always stir ZAR Wood Stain thoroughly before and during use.
- 2 Use a clean lint-free cloth (like an old t-shirt), slowly apply an even coat of stain, working it into the wood in the direction of the grain. Use another clean cloth to wipe off excess stain.
- 3 Allow the stain to penetrate into the wood. ZAR's "Controlled Penetration" gives you plenty of time to wipe out streaks and lap marks. The amount of stain you wipe off will determine the final wood tone. If you want a darker appearance you want to leave more of the stain on. Follow the product label for dry time. Do not allow excess stain to dry on the wood.
- 4 To darken the color, apply a second coat, using the same process as the first coat.
- 5 Allow to dry thoroughly in a dust-free area. Now your project is ready for a protective finish with ZAR Polyurethane.

**DANGER!** Rags, steel wool or waste soaked with ZAR Wood Stain may spontaneously catch fire if improperly discarded. Immediately after use, place rags, steel wool or waste in a sealed water-filled metal container.

These chips have been reproduced as accurately as possible in process color lithography.



# Wood Protection



Protect your beautiful stained or unfinished wood with a clear topcoat. Start with a dust free, dry surface to ensure a smooth finish.

Begin with a clean, dry surface. Any existing wax, oil or glue needs to be removed. The key to a beautiful appearance is good surface preparation. See instructions under Preparation.

Always stir the contents before using. **DO NOT SHAKE.** Shaking will produce air bubbles. Stirring is not required on gloss finishes.

Apply a thin coat in the direction of the wood grain with a smooth, even stroke. Use a natural bristle brush with an oil-based finish and a synthetic bristle brush with a water-based finish. Do not over-brush the finish. After applying the polyurethane, leave the room and close the door to prevent contaminating the finish. Allow to dry following the

label instructions. Lightly sand using fine sandpaper, #220 grit and wipe the surface between coats. For oil-based finishes, use a cloth dampened with mineral spirits. For water-based finishes use a cloth dampened with water. Additional coats provide added protection.



## CHOOSING THE RIGHT ZAR® CLEAR FINISH



**ZAR Oil-Based Finishes**  
**ZAR Classic Wood Finish** – This product is a high solid, VOC compliant durable protective finish for beautiful results in commercial and residential applications.



**ZAR ULTRA Polyurethane** – Super fast drying oil-based polyurethane that dries in two hours on bare wood. Tough abrasion resistant finish, great for hardwood floors, cabinets, furniture and woodwork.



**ZAR Tung Oil Wipe-On Finish** – Wipes on easily with a cloth. Ideal for interior wood surfaces. Produces a smooth, even finish every time. An ideal bar top finish.



**ZAR ULTRA Exterior Oil-Based Polyurethane** – A super fast drying clear wood polyurethane finish that dries in two hours. Formulated for exterior surfaces, it contains ultraviolet radiation absorbers and antioxidants.



**ZAR Oil Modified Polyurethanes**  
**ZAR ULTRA MAX Waterborne Oil Modified Polyurethane** – This product features Dual Drying Technology for a harder through cure. You can recoat in 2 hours making it the perfect choice for heavy use areas. It is formulated for floors (exotic hardwood approved,) cabinets, furniture and woodwork. It cleans up with soap and water and is VOC compliant.



**ZAR ULTRA MAX Wipe-On Finish** applies easily with a cloth for a smooth, beautiful, protective coating.  
**ZAR ULTRA MAX Floor Rejuvenator** restores and renews the beauty of wood that has become dull, scratched or shows signs of wear.



**ZAR Water-Based Finishes**  
**Aqua ZAR Water-Based Polyurethane** – An environmentally safe, low odor, water clean-up polyurethane formula designed for interior use. Dries crystal clear and is the perfect choice for light-colored or white stained projects.



**ZAR Water-Based Exterior Polyurethane** – This product is formulated exclusively for exterior wood surfaces because it contains ultraviolet radiation absorbers and antioxidants. It is the ideal choice for all exterior surfaces that need a clear protective coating such as siding, gables, and patio furniture and steel and fiberglass entry doors.

### Sanding Sealers

*Sanding Sealers are designed to create an ultra smooth surface by filling and sealing all types of bare or stained wood. Use a Sanding Sealer prior to the application of a polyurethane topcoat.*



**ZAR Quick Dry Sanding Sealer** (for use under oil-based polyurethane) is a fast drying sanding sealer, dries in one hour on bare wood. It can be used on interior wood floors, furniture, paneling, cabinets, countertops and woodwork.



**ZAR ULTRA MAX Waterborne Oil Modified Sanding Sealer** (for use under waterborne oil-modified polyurethane) is a fast drying, sanding sealer, dries in one hour on bare wood, for interior wood floors and woodwork. It is also available in Natural Amber Sanding Sealer.



ZAR® Wood Stain is ideally suited for all types of doors because of its heavier consistency, higher pigment levels and excellent adhesion characteristics.

Both ZAR Wood Stain and ZAR Polyurethane have been used successfully on doors made by leading door manufacturers, such as Masonite®, Jeld-Wen®, Therma-Tru®, Pease®, Peachtree®, and PlastPro®. ZAR is the perfect choice when you want to beautify any type of new door or improve the look of an old door.

#### Correct Staining Procedure

Follow the staining procedure diagram at right. Work on one section of the door at a time. The numbers correspond to the order in which you should work. The arrows indicate the direction of the grain for each area of the door.

Follow the same procedure when you apply the tone coat and clear finish. Allow the whole project to dry thoroughly and start enjoying your door.

#### Using the Graining Tool

Practice using the ZAR® Graining Tool on a scrap piece of painted metal or wood or use a panel on the door and simply wipe off the stain repeatedly until you learn the technique. The tool head is rotatable to achieve different graining patterns.



Staining Procedure Diagram



Exert downward pressure



While drawing toward you



Slowly rock down ...



Then up, consistently,



Until section is complete.



Note: Occasionally wipe off the face of the graining tool to prevent the grain pattern on the face of the tool from clogging.

**Heartwood Grain:** Stir ZAR Wood Stain thoroughly. Begin on the inside of panel (1) according to the Staining Procedure Diagram. Wipe on a thin, uniform coat of ZAR Wood Stain. While exerting downward pressure with your index finger, (2.5 - 3 lbs.), draw the graining tool down the section, moving the tool at a constant speed. While drawing the graining tool towards you, slowly rock it down and up to create a natural heartwood appearance. Remember do not stop the tool while pulling a grain.

If you make a mistake, don't worry. Simply take your stain cloth, wipe wood stain over the area and grain it again. Or completely wipe off what you have applied with a cloth dampened with paint thinner or mineral spirits and start over (see a door graining video at [www.ugl.com](http://www.ugl.com)).

#### Does your door need a new coat of polyurethane?

- 1 Look directly at the door, and then view from an angle off to the side. If no visible discoloration, breakdown or dulling of the polyurethane is noticed, inspect again in 6 months.
- 2 If, when looking directly at the door it is satisfactory, however when viewed from an angle the door appears dull or has a slight white or milky discoloration, sand lightly to assure proper adhesion of the polyurethane, tack and apply a coat of the appropriate ZAR Polyurethane. Be sure to buff lightly to avoid damaging fiberglass or Masonite® door surface.
- 3 If you see a milky white cast when looking directly at the door or if the polyurethane is cracked or peeling, you must strip off the old finish using a remover. Reprime the surface if necessary (metal or primed doors), stain and apply the appropriate ZAR Polyurethane.

#### Steel Door Surface Preparation

Steel doors come already primed and are usually gray, buff or white. Whatever the door color, the procedure is the same.



For doors previously painted with dark color paint or for a more natural wood appearance, apply a semi-gloss or eggshell paint as a base coat. Allow base coat to dry thoroughly.



For best results, lay the door on padded sawhorses. Remove all hardware, clean all dirt, dust and greasy stains using a cloth and mineral spirits (paint thinner).

Wood graining is completed using 2 steps, first apply a grain coat then once it is dry apply a tone coat.



#### Applying the Grain Coat

Follow the Staining Procedure Diagram on the left. Stir ZAR Wood Stain thoroughly. Wipe on a thin, uniform coat of ZAR Wood Stain using a lint-free cloth or foam brush, next use the graining tool to create a wood grain pattern.



Remember work on one section of the door at a time. In tight corners where you can not get the graining tool, use cheesecloth or a dry brush to simulate a wood grain look. When you have the grain you like, allow the door to dry for 12 hours or longer depending on drying conditions.

#### Applying the Tone Coat

Stir ZAR Wood Stain thoroughly. Wipe on another thin, uniform coat of the same color ZAR Wood Stain in the direction of the grain pattern. This is the tone coat and will give the door the rich look of wood. (Do not sand between coats, sanding will damage the simulated grain pattern). Use a dry brush to gently feather out streaks and lap marks.



You can control the darkness of the door by the amount of stain you apply. A thin coat will reveal more of the grain pattern; a heavier coat will hide it. Allow this coat to dry for 24 hours, depending on drying

conditions, before applying the polyurethane. To choose the right finish go to Choosing the Right ZAR Clear Finish section of this brochure.

#### Protect Your Steel Door with ZAR Polyurethane

The surface must be thoroughly dry before top-coating with polyurethane. Use a natural bristle brush with an oil-based finish and a synthetic bristle brush with a water-based finish. Dip the brush in the can and let excess drip off. Apply a thin, even coat by flowing polyurethane on in the direction of the grain pattern. Do not brush the finish back and forth; this will create bubbles in the finish.

For interior door surfaces, apply 2 coats of ZAR Interior Polyurethane, also use interior polyurethane for doors protected by overhangs or porches. For exterior door surfaces exposed to direct sunlight for prolonged periods, apply 3 coats of ZAR Exterior Polyurethane. Allow to dry according to label instructions.



#### Embossed Wood Grain Doors

For best results, lay the door on padded sawhorses. Remove all hardware, clean all dirt, dust and greasy stains using a cloth and mineral spirits (paint thinner). Mask the glass adjacent to all window moldings and remove all hardware.



#### Stain and Feather Technique

Follow the Staining Procedure Diagram on the left. Stir ZAR Wood Stain thoroughly. Apply using a lint-free cloth in a circular motion (like you apply shoe polish) or a foam brush, working the stain into the embossed grain pattern.



Next use your staining cloth to smooth the stain in the direction of the grain. Do not wipe off excess stain.



Working on the same area you just stained, use a clean, soft paintbrush to gently feather-out any streaks or lap marks. Be sure to feather the corners where the stain tends to pool. Occasionally remove the excess stain from the brush with a clean cloth.

If a darker color tone is desired, wait 24 hours and apply a second coat using the same steps as above. Allow to dry 24 hours, depending on drying conditions, before applying the polyurethane. To choose the right finish go to Choosing the Right ZAR Clear Finish section of this brochure.



#### Yearly Maintenance

It is important to inspect your door yearly. Wipe the door using paint thinner or mineral spirits to remove any surface contaminants.

Repair scratches or dings using a cotton swab dampened with ZAR Wood Stain. Dab the cotton swab on a clean cloth before touching-up the door to remove excess stain. Then use a clean soft paintbrush to feather the repair. Protect the stain with ZAR Polyurethane.

# Results

Today's furniture comes in a variety of woods, from hardwoods like Oak, to softer woods like Aspen and Pine. ZAR® Wood Stain will give you professional looking results on all types of woods.

ZAR Wood Stain's unique controlled penetration full-bodied formula allows you to work at your own pace without the fear of streaks or lap marks.



## THE "DROP TEST"

This "Drop Test" is the perfect demonstration to see the ZAR Wood Stain difference. Both wood chips show a drop of stain that was allowed to stand on a piece of wood for 15 minutes. When the ZAR Wood Stain, on the far left, was wiped out, there was no evidence of the drop or a blotch mark. However, the sample on the right shows how other stains leave a dark, blotchy spot where the drop was initially placed on the wood.

[www.zar.com](http://www.zar.com)



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