



The Basics of Choosing The Best Topcoat Product For Your Specific Project For DIYers

Many DIYers love to use decorative paints and finishing waxes for the versatility, colors, and endless creative possibilities. When sealing projects, waxes offer a lovely, traditional hand-polished look and feel to painted and unpainted furniture. However, we recognize that sometimes you may need another option for sealing and protecting your projects.

Theoretically, applying wax is a simple process. But for some DIYers, getting the wax on and off again without leaving a residue is difficult. Too little wax yields a streaky finish, and too much wax means using lots of elbow grease to remove it and buff it out again. Even seasoned painters who love the results of using wax may prefer not to use it on large tabletops and cabinets for ease of application, saving time and durability.

Here at Artisan Enhancements, we take great pride in the development of our two sealers, Clear Finish and Clear Topcoat Sealer. Both have been formulated to offer unique solutions.

WHEN TO USE CLEAR FINISH

- Interior use only
- Water-based and easy to clean up
- Non-yellowing, even over whites
- Satin to glossy finish
- Perfect for cabinets
- Water resistant once cured
- DO NOT USE OVER WAX
- No VOC/No odor
- Use over foil and leaf to maintain a glossy finish
- Not recommended for floors
- Perfect to add "shine" Pearl Plaster finishes
- Perfect for pure white colors
- Good alternative sealer for expectant mothers



WHEN TO USE CLEAR TOPCOAT SEALER

- Exterior and interior penetrating sealer
- Soya oil based, soap and water clean up
- Non-yellowing
- Matte finish
- Use as a primer/sealer instead of shellac
- Water resistant once cured
- CAN BE USED OVER WAX
- No VOC/No odor
- Not recommended over pure white
- Great for high-use surfaces, cabinets, and floors
- Good alternative sealer for expectant mothers



HOW TO APPLY CLEAR FINISH

- Stir and apply a very thin coat using a flat brush like the Artisan Enhancements 45mm Topcoat Brush
 - Allow first coat to dry approx. 1 hour before applying second coat - for best results, allow the first coat to dry fully 24 hours before applying the second coat
 - Be sensitive to brush strokes due to shinier finish
 - The more coats, the glossier the look
 - DO NOT USE OVER WAX
- Cure Time: 24 - 48 hours



WHY IS OUR TOPCOAT BRUSH THE BEST TOOL TO USE TO APPLY SEALERS?

All brushes and tools are not created equal. For example, think about make-up brushes. Women know when to use an eye shadow brush versus a blush brush. Each brush has a specific purpose and it's doubtful the user will switch the two or use one brush for both jobs. They also know that a brush bought at the dollar store will not last or get the same results as a brush from the makeup counter. The same holds true for paintbrushes and tools. Many DIY painters have discovered that purchasing a quality paintbrush that is suited for a specific type of paint and job will yield the best results.

The 45mm Topcoat brush by Artisan Enhancements is the perfect tool for applying topcoats and sealers. Our Topcoat Brush is handmade in Sweden and is a very high quality lightweight brush. Our brush is made mostly from natural bristles but has a light blend of synthetic bristles to lessen the opportunities for brush strokes. A huge benefit of this brush is that it helps facilitate thin even coats when applying paint, Clear Topcoat Sealer or Clear Finish.

HOW TO APPLY CLEAR TOPCOAT SEALER

- Stir and apply a very thin coat using a flat brush like the Artisan Enhancements 45mm Topcoat Brush
 - Allow first coat to dry approx. 1 hour before applying second coat - for best results, allow the first coat to dry fully 24 hours before applying the second coat
 - For the best results over "antique" or "warm" white paint colors, apply a coat of Clear Topcoat Sealer before painting - Apply paint - After paint is dry seal again with Topcoat Sealer
 - Not recommended over pure/bright white paints
 - CAN BE USED OVER WAX
- Cure Time: 48 - 72 hours



Artisan Enhancements, LLC.
www.artisanenhancements.com

Bio-Based

**Environmentally
Sustainable**

Non-Toxic

Hypoallergenic

Low Odor/NO VOC

Clear Finish by Artisan Enhancements®

Clear Finish is an all natural, water based, non-yellowing varnish. Clear Finish is a thin translucent sealer that dries brilliantly clear. Clear Finish is formulated for ultimate clarity with a satin to glossy finish. Once fully cured, Clear Finish is water-resistant. Clear Finish is our recommended sealer for all pure and bright white painted finishes.

Recommended Use:

Clear Finish is formulated to seal and protect painted indoor surfaces. To maintain shimmer and shine, Clear Finish is perfect for sealing Pearl Plaster and metallic leafing or foils. Clear Finish is designed to be used on a variety of surfaces including furniture, walls, and most cabinetry. Clear finish is not recommended for outdoor use. The more coats of Clear Finish, the glossier the finish for more modern aesthetics. Since dried Clear Finish can sometimes have a glossy characteristic depending on the amount of coats applied, it is not recommended on floors. Do not use on surfaces previously sealed or to be sealed with wax. To add an additional sealer over waxed surfaces or to seal floors we recommend Clear Topcoat Sealer by Artisan Enhancements®.

Application:

Make sure the surface is cleaned and sealed before painting to avoid any unwanted bleeding or reaction. Allow the surface to fully dry overnight after painting. Stir Clear Finish thoroughly before each application. Using the 45MM Topcoat Brush by Artisan Enhancements®, specialty varnish roller, or a quality flat edge varnish brush - apply 1 very THIN coat. The coats should look "wet" not "milky". If the layer of Clear Finish looks milky, too much product has been applied. If this happens, "off-load" excess Clear Finish from the tool and attempt to lightly distribute excess product on the surface with the tool (working the excess Clear Finish into unsealed areas of surface). Allow the first coat of Clear Finish to fully dry before applying a very thin 2nd coat. For optimal results let the first coat dry for 24 hours before applying second coat. The sealed surface should be fully dry to touch after 12 hours depending on the moisture in the environment. Allow surface to cure a minimum of 48-72 hours before use.

Note: If more sheen or gloss is desired, add an additional thin coat of Clear Finish after the first two coats have been allowed to fully dry. Clear Finish can range between a soft satin (just above a matte) to glossy finish. We recommend working Clear Finish into your surface with even controlled strokes. The glossier the finish the more apt it will be to show brush strokes.

Helpful Hints- Why does the surface sealed with Clear Finish still feel "moist" or look "cloudy" after 24 hours?

If the sealed surface does not dry quickly or looks cloudy one of the following reasons could be the cause:

-The coats of Clear Finish were not thin enough and too much product has been applied. This is a common issue usually stemming from the incorrect tool or not off-loading excess product from

the tool before applying the sealer to the surface. If too much Clear Finish was used - extend the dry and cure time until surface no longer feels moist.

-A cloudy look is usually the result of the second coat being applied before the first coat was completely dry. Extend the dry and cure time until surface no longer looks cloudy.

- If you get a ring or water spot on your surface because your surface has not fully cured, let the spot or ring dry out on its own. There is no need to "clean" the area.

Clean up & Product Storage: Easy clean up with soap and water. Seal the container tightly. Do not let freeze or expose to direct sunlight/extreme heat. Do not apply product when air and surface temperatures are below 50°F (10°C).

Additional Resources and Inspiration:

<http://artisanenhancements.com/blog/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/artisanenhance/clear-finish-by-artisan-enhancements/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/artisanenhance/all-natural-sealers-and-topcoats-by-artisan-enhanc/>