



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 Topcoat Sealer by Artisan Enhancements®

Clear Topcoat Sealer is a soya oil based, non-yellowing alkyd, penetrating sealer. Clear Topcoat Sealer has a creamy color due to the natural soy base, but dries clear. Clear Topcoat Sealer is sandable, **exterior grade**, and has a matte sheen. Once fully cured, Clear Topcoat Sealer is water-resistant. Clear Topcoat sealer is ideal for almost all paint colors and stains, but not ideal with pure white paints with no pigment (read below for recommendations). *Antique whites/old white/off white/ivories/creams have pigment.

Recommended Use:

Clear Topcoat Sealer is a highly versatile product and can be used as a primer basecoat or topcoat on most surfaces. It is formulated for application on indoor or outdoor surfaces that require either primer, protective coating/seal, or both. Clear Topcoat Sealer can be used in lieu of shellac, varnish, and waxes to protect or seal surfaces. It can be used on a variety of surfaces such as: furniture, cabinets, floors, stone, plaster and concrete.

Use Clear Topcoat Sealer as an **alternative to shellac** to seal porous (concrete or raw wood) or to prime surfaces prior to painting (surfaces susceptible to bleed through or have an odor). We recommend using two thin coats for a full coverage seal (allowing first coat to thoroughly dry before applying 2nd coat).

Be sensitive to using Clear Topcoat Sealer over pure white paints with no pigment. **When true "pure" white (no pigments) are clear coated with oil based products they can occasionally take on a different hue after drying (but not always). If this happens, it is not the Clear Topcoat Sealer changing the hue, it is something being lifted from beneath the surface.** If concerned about pure white paints, seal the painted surface with Clear Finish **after the paint** is completely dry or seal the surface with Clear Topcoat Sealer **prior to painting**. To seal **before** painting, apply a thin undercoat of Clear Topcoat Sealer to avoid bleed through (works like shellac). Allow Clear Topcoat Sealer to dry overnight. Paint the surface as desired. Once paint has dried seal with either Clear Topcoat Sealer or Clear Finish.

Waxed Surfaces:

Clear Topcoat Sealer can also be used as a clear barrier layer before waxing or a protective layer over waxed finishes. If using over a waxed surface, **only 1 very, very thin** layer is necessary to seal the wax. *Make sure the wax is thoroughly wiped back and allow 24 hours to slightly cure wax before sealing with Clear Topcoat Sealer.

Important Info:

Clear Topcoat Sealer is a "penetrating sealer" meaning the sealer actually penetrates deep below the painted/stained surface creating a durable bond between paint/stain and sealer. The sealer will re-wet or activate anything below the painted or stained surface (sometimes invisible to the naked eye). Because of this, we do not recommend Clear Topcoat Sealer to be used over chemical based cleaners, paint thinners, or mineral spirits without wiping off the residue left from their use with warm water and soap. Allow the surface to dry for a minimum of 24 hours before using Clear Topcoat Sealer. If surface has a heavy varnish and is slick, run a sanding block lightly over the top for extra grip before sealing or painting.

Application:

Make sure the surface has been cleaned or prepped with recommendations above removing residue, dirt, or chemicals whether painting or sealing first. Stir Clear Topcoat Sealer thoroughly before each application. Using the 45mm Topcoat Brush by Artisan Enhancements®, a roller, sprayer, or a quality flat edge varnish brush - apply 1 very THIN coat of product. The coats should look "wet" not "milky". If the layer of Clear Topcoat Sealer looks milky, too much product has been applied. "Off-load" excess sealer from the tool and distribute excess product on the surface into unsealed areas of surface. Allow the first coat of Clear Topcoat Sealer 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**. Do not put on 2nd coat if surface is tacky as it will extend overall dry time. Allow surface to cure a min. of 48-72 hours before use.

Helpful Hints- Why does the surface sealed with Clear Topcoat Sealer still feel "moist" or "tacky" after 24 hours? If the sealed surface does not dry quickly one of the following reasons could be the cause:

- The coats of Clear Topcoat Sealer 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 Topcoat Sealer was used - extend the dry and cure time until surface no longer feels moist or tacky.
- Humidity and temperature can affect the dry time. Allow an extra 24 – 48 hours if conditions are particularly warm/cold and humid.
- Chemical solvent or mineral spirits are interfering with the dry and cure times. A chemical interference could be a cleaning product or a heavy varnish that is on the surface prior to painting or sealing. For the best results, clean the surface completely with a mild soap and water to remove any residue or chemicals prior to sealing an unpainted surface or before painting. If surface is still moist or tacky after an extended amount of time, try sanding back down to the original surface to expose the trapped chemical layer. Clean with mild soap and warm water. Allow the surface to fully dry overnight. Applying paint and sealer referring to application directions above.

Note: Using Clear Topcoat Sealer over Mineral Spirit + Wax Glazes is NOT ideal. Mineral spirits act as a solvent to break down oils, this attribute allows mineral spirits to be used as an oil paint thinner and degreaser. Waxes and Clear Topcoat Sealer are oil based products. When adding mineral spirits to dark wax, the solids begin to thin and break down. By thinning the wax, keep in mind some of the protective qualities are also being broken down in the process. Mixing mineral spirits with wax might diminish the durability of waxes depending on the ratio of wax to mineral spirits. Clear Topcoat Sealer is also oil based and natural, therefore, the use of mineral spirits interferes with the bonding properties of Clear Topcoat Sealer.

If sealing a Mineral Spirit + Dark Wax glazed finish is desired, the mineral spirits portion of the mixture must be allowed to off-gas and dissipate thoroughly before sealing with Clear Topcoat Sealer. Depending on the amount of mineral spirits and brand used, the off-gas process can take 48 hours or longer. Once the glaze mixture has fully off-gassed, seal the surface using the steps provided for sealing over waxed surfaces.

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-topcoat-sealer-by-artisan-enhancements/>

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