



Briwax Hard Wax Oils Comparison

Frequently asked questions



Why use Water-Based (WB) Hard Wax Oil?

The water-based (WB) is more user friendly having a lower odor. WB has faster drying times and applicators are easier to clean using standard soap and water. WB can be applied on many surfaces – hard wood, soft wood, MDF, cork, concrete, stone, marble, granite, quarry and terracotta tiles.



Why use Solvent-Based (SB) Hard Wax Oil?

The solvent-based (SB) can be applied over bare wood or existing BRIWAX Original wax finishes. Recommended: Use on wood only. The glue used in items such as hardboard and MDF could be dissolved as a result of the solvents in the SB. Porous items such as unsealed cork, concrete, stone, unsealed quarry and terracotta tiles may have increased drying times.

Can I use wood dye on the bare wood before finishing with Briwax Hard Wax Oil?

Use only water-based wood dyes under the WB, such as BRIWAX Water-Based Wood Dyes. Check with the manufacturer's directions on hardboard and MDF before proceeding. Always test on an inconspicuous area first.

Use only solvent-based wood dyes under the SB. Check manufacturer's directions before proceeding. Always test on an inconspicuous area first.

Can WB Hard Wax Oil be applied over Solvent-Based Hard Wax Oil for maintenance upkeep?

Lightly sand the original finish to give good adhesion. The surface should also be free from contaminants, dust and grime. Always test on an inconspicuous area first. Similarly, for SB over WB.

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Can the Hard Wax Oils be over-coated with anything?

The WB can be over-coated with most water-based varnishes and oils. Check with the manufacturer for compatibility. Always test on an inconspicuous area first.

The SB can be over-coated with polyurethane varnish or similar. Check with the manufacturer for compatibility. Always test on an inconspicuous area first.

What maintenance is required for the Hard Wax Oils?

Vacuum, sweep, dry rag or mop, then follow with a well-wrung cloth or mop using a mild detergent solution. Dirt and scratches may be removed by rubbing lightly with a plastic scouring pad. Before reapplying oil in worn/dull areas, clean area using the previous instructions.

Vacuum, sweep, dry rag or mop, then follow with a well-wrung cloth or mop using a mild detergent solution. Dirt and scratches may be removed by rubbing lightly with a plastic scouring pad. Before reapplying oil in worn/dull areas, clean area using the previous instructions.

How many coats are needed?

Recommended: At least three coats for the WB to reach optimum performance. Four coats are recommended in areas of high use or when the substrate is more absorbent such as tiles, cork, and concrete.

Recommended: At least two coats for the SB to reach optimum performance. Additional coats may be needed depending on the absorption of the wood.

Can they be tinted?

Use BRIWAX Water-Based Wood Dye or a water-based tint for the WB, to achieve a different shade, up to a 20% dilution. Check with the manufacturer of the tint or dye for compatibility. Always test on an inconspicuous area first.

Use solvent-based wood dyes or solvent-based tint with SB, to achieve a darker color, up to a 20% dilution. Check with the manufacturer of the tint or dye for compatibility. Always test on an inconspicuous area first.

What are the oils resistant to?

WB is resistant to water, stains, and alcohol.

SB is resistant to water, stains, and alcohol.

Do the oils change the color appearance of the wood?

WB will retain the original color and appearance of the wood.

SB will make the wood finish look slightly darker, warmer and richer.