



513 South Street (Rte. 1A) Wrentham, MA 02093
508 384-2811

Furniture Care Steps: Products and Procedures

Clean:

It is very important to clean off the old build-up of waxes, grease and dust-laden polishes down to the original finish with **Howard's "Klean-a-Finish"** and use with (Steel wool, #0000 or Very Fine). There are other methods and products that may be used, however, they are often too weak, too strong or leave a film. The *Klean-A-Finish* is simple, low odor and leaves no film.

Recondition the original finish:

Wrentham Antiques Marketplace's philosophy is to do as little as possible to the original antique and vintage furniture finishes. The existing finish offers the best base for maintaining the older character (patina) in furniture. There are many methods and products that are employed by those of us in the antiques restoration industry. The difficulty is which of the dozens of options/recopies should the non-professional choose? **Howard's "Restor-A-Finish,"** when used with cloth or #0000 or Very Fine steel wool offers a simplified "one-size-fits-all" solution. It is easy to understand and use and it offers safe results. It is very hard to "go too far" with this product.

The "*Restor-A-Finish*" line of products is designed to gently loosen the existing finish, add a slight amount of pigment and leave a satin sheen. All of this is done without removing the character marks and lines that help to give older surfaces their unique and warm appearance.

Polish:

Most reconditioned, low traffic, surfaces do not need to be polished or waxed. However, there are those high traffic surfaces that could use a protective and easy to maintain solution. Waxes are good for applications where low traffic protection is needed (weather and high moisture, added sheen on dry country surfaces). When wax is used in high traffic areas it can become a source of repeated maintenance (re-waxing and constant buffing of hall tables and dining room tables, etc.).

"OZ Cream Polish" is a great option that simplifies the application and maintenance aspect of protecting those high traffic areas. It glides on, buffs in and maintains easily. When applied properly, it will not smudge or leave fingerprints upon touch.

Note that all of these products are designed for people that don't do this for a living!!!



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Howard's *Klean-A-Finish* Application Procedures

Howard's ***Klean-A-Finish*** offers the best results when used with #0000 or Very Fine steel wool. The steel wool will not mar the finish (especially when action is with the grain) and will significantly reduce the effort needed to cut through the built-up grime.

Steps:

- 1) (optional) Put a little warm water in small cup (6 oz.-ish).
- 2) (optional) Dip the steel wool into the warm water and shake off the excess water.
- 3) Add the ***Klean-A-Finish*** to the wet/dry steel wool.
- 4) Method (A): Apply the ***Klean-A-Finish*** to the surface, with the grain, with some vigor.
Method (B): For the more stubborn surfaces, lightly wet the surface and apply ***Klean-A-Finish*** with a paint brush and allow it to sit for up to a half hour.
- 5) Using wet paper towels, clean off loosened grime.
- 6) Let the surface dry.
- 7) Feel the dry surface with your hand to detect areas in need of further cleaning.
- 8) Repeat steps 2 through 8 until the surface has been thoroughly worked and feels smooth and clean.

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Howard's Restor-A-Finish Application Procedures

Howard's **Restor-A-Finish** is not intended for use with acrylic and urethane based products. Some lacquered finishes have added resins that harden the surface and may impede the effectiveness of **Restor-A-Finish**. However, most lacquers shellacs and varnishes will respond. There are occasions when we will let Howard's **Restor-A-Finish** sit overnight (where needed, 2 or 3 of times) to achieve the desired result. It is very important to clean the surface prior to application or the old build up will be mixed into the newly created surface and will often cause a "swirling/greasy" result.

Steps:

- 1) Apply **Restor-A-Finish** with a brush or # 0000 steel wool (evenly over sections; e.g. top then side, etc.) and let it sit for about 10 minutes. You may gently work product with the grain, at first and then let it sit.
- 2) Using #0000 steel wool, add more product and work it into the old finish (not much elbow grease needed). I caution against too much elbow grease because it can remove finish and create the need to completely strip and refinish the piece.
- 3) Using a paper towel, wipe off excess liquid and let the surface dry.
- 4) Using your hand and eye assess the result. You may need to repeat steps 1 through 3 as many as 3-4 times.
- 5) **Restor-A-Finish** will appear glossy until it fully dries. Then it will return to a satin sheen, as intended.

Application with a cloth may be all that minor jobs require. It is important to note that it is easy to work with Howard's **Restor-A-Finish** and it is difficult to go too far when using this product. The corresponding pigments in the product will only alter the overall color by about 5%.

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OZ Cream Polish Application Procedures

OZ Cream Polish is not recommended for use over existing polishes and wax-based, build-up.
(Refer to cleaning procedures above)

Steps:

- 1) Apply **OZ Cream Polish** to a lightly damp cloth and rub on to surface until covered and "wet" looking.
- 2) Using a dry cloth buff in polish until excess is gone (brief and easy).
- 3) Within minutes, you have a wet, glossy sheen that will return to a satin in about 15 minutes.
- 4) Repeat same procedure 2-3 times for first application on high traffic areas and only once for later applications.
- 5) Dependant upon the use of the furniture's surface, apply 1-4 times each year (keep application cloth dedicated to OZ).
- 6) Use the original OZ application cloth to dust around the house. The dust will cling to the cloth and not get "rolled" into layers of polish.
- 7) Damp sponge for daily clean up of OZ'd surfaces (farm tables, formal dining tables and other high traffic areas).

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Be sure to read the label for the many other applications of this great product.