



APPLYING VARNISH

- 1 We recommend that the first coat of varnish applied is thinned up to 15%. This will promote good penetration of the surface, and adhesion of subsequent coats.
- 2 After the first coat has been applied, the surface will appear rough. This is a result of the exposed ends of grain absorbing the varnish and lifting. Sand smooth with a medium grade paper – 320 to 400.
- 3 Applying varnish with a brush is usually the best method, although roller application can be effective on large flat surfaces.


 Brush out the varnish with firm strokes along and across the grain holding the brush at 90° to the surface. Then 'tip-off' by gently stroking the surface with the brush at 45°, following the grain. Your brush should be used for varnish only.
- 4 For exterior use it is imperative to apply sufficient coats. Normally you need to apply varnish until the grain of the timber has been filled. At this stage the surface requires lightly sanding to give a truly smooth surface free from any grain depressions. Then apply the full number of coats from that point on for maximum performance.
 If the finished object does not end up with a very rich deep gloss lustre then it probably hasn't had enough coats applied. Take extra care on vertical surfaces or difficult shapes where less varnish is always applied. Premature failure of varnished surface is inevitably related to insufficient film builds.

HINTS TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE A PERFECT RESULT EVERY TIME

- ✓ Round the edges of any scrapers with a file to avoid gouging.
- ✓ Keep the sandpaper clean and change it frequently.
- ✓ Sand by numbers, finishing the surface with a progressively finer grade of paper.
- ✓ Varnishing is best achieved on warm, dry mornings – cold weather slows drying and damp spoils the gloss.
- ✓ Always use a clean brush, previously used only for varnish.
- ✓ Always buy the highest quality varnish and brush available. This will ensure you achieve the most attractive finish.
- ✓ Clean new brushes before use.
- ✓ Test the finish on a spare piece of wood before applying to the boat.
- ✓ On large areas use a foam roller to apply the initial coat, followed immediately behind with a wide brush for the finishing strokes – this is best done by two people.
- ✓ After cleaning with the correct thinners, wash the brush in detergent and warm water, dry and wrap in greaseproof paper in a fine chisel shape.
- ✓ Alternatively, having cleaned and washed the brush, suspend by its handle to avoid any 'fishtailing' of the bristle.
- ✓ As the varnish ages in the tin you may find there are lumps or contamination. Sieving the varnish into a separate container through cheesecloth, a paint filter or an old stocking is a good solution to this problem.
- ✓ Never apply direct from the can, as this will introduce contamination.
- ✓ Always pour the amount of varnish that you expect to use at any one time, into a separate container.
- ✓ Don't use varnish which has been open for a long period as it will have picked up dust.
- ✓ Do not varnish wood when exposed to direct sunlight.
- ✓ Never leave bare wood exposed too long as it will absorb moisture from the atmosphere.