

3 EASY STEPS TO A PERFECT WOOD FINISH

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Pick the best product for your project

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caring for your wood

CARING
FOR
YOUR WOOD

OUR MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED VARNISH QUESTION:

“What is the best varnish for interior and exterior wood?”

‘We have several varnishes to meet your needs. Exterior high gloss varnishes with excellent ultra-violet protection include:

Goldspar® – A one-part polyurethane varnish with incredible abrasion, chemical and water resistance.

Perfection® Varnish – A two-part polyurethane designed to be an extremely durable clear coating for wood and epoxy surfaces.

Schooner® Varnish – A traditional easy to use tung-oil varnish with a classic varnish look.

So if you have an area to varnish that gets a lot of abrasion use Goldspar or Perfection. If you are varnishing over a clear epoxy such as Epiglass® use Perfection and if you want that beautiful traditional look of varnish use Schooner.

Goldspar® Satin – has been designed for interior surfaces. It is a low sheen polyurethane varnish producing a flexible but very hard-wearing surface, that is resistant to scratching and abrasion.’

UV PROTECTION

Varnishes have always been considered a mysterious blend of black art and science but there are only five main ingredients that go into a top quality marine varnish – oil, resin, solvent, driers and additives. The trend in modern varnish technology that most directly affects the long-term durability of varnish is the use of additives specifically to combat the effects of UV energy. i.e. sunlight.

The first, and most commonly used additive is the UV absorber. UV absorbers diffuse the UV energy through the coating so that degradation of substrate is avoided.

International uses two additional additives to help protect the varnish from UV damage – surface stabilisers and antioxidants. Surface stabilisers work at the surface to repair damage from UV light by pulling together polymer segments. By keeping the surface stabilised, colour and gloss are maintained.

Antioxidants are used to combat photo-degradation and oxidation. This helps maintain colour stability and keeps the varnish from fading and becoming cloudy.

VARNISH

Wood has a beauty of its own that a good varnish job will enhance and protect. The varnish you choose may be for a specific task or for a wide range of uses. Varnishes applied to your boat provide a barrier to protect against the elements that will attack the surface during the season – sea, UV radiation from the sun, but also rain and wind. The chosen varnish also enhances the natural appearance of the wood, thereby maintaining and even improving the value of the boat.



INTERNATIONAL®: 3 LAYERS OF UV PROTECTION

- 1) In paint, some protection is offered by colour pigments. In clear varnish no pigment exists. Varnishes from International are specially designed to reflect ultra-violet radiation, and therefore have a longer life.
- 2) Our high performance Schooner®, Goldspar® and Perfection® Varnish products are boosted by UV absorbing and light stabilising agents which absorb radiation and convert it to less harmful wavelengths to protect the wood from UV attack.
- 3) Even with this protection some radiation can still penetrate the film, creating ‘free radical’ elements, which contribute to varnish breakdown. To counter this, we add HALS (Hindered Amine Light Stabilisers) to our varnishes, which effectively track down, isolate and neutralise these free radicals, extending the protective life of the varnish beyond the expectancy of other UV protection packages.

REMEMBER: Like in most paint applications, preparation is the most difficult and important part of the project – and is likely to take up to 80% of the total work time.

