




How to varnish like a professional



PREPARATION FOR VARNISH WORK	
	<i>To achieve a good finish, the condition of the existing varnish should be thoroughly checked to determine the extent of the preparation required.</i>
1	Look for areas of damage, separation or peeling or any other signs that the varnish does not have a firm hold on the substrate.
2	Clean and prepare the surface by washing with Special Thinner 216 to remove any contamination. Then inspect again to ensure no damage has been missed.
3	VARNISH – GOOD CONDITION – NO DAMAGE: Sand with 220-320 grit wet-or-dry sandpaper and when dry, wipe with a cloth dampened with 333 (2333N if varnishing with Perfection®).
	VARNISH – GOOD CONDITION – SOME DAMAGE: These areas may be repaired using Interstain Paste Wood Filler Stain. Spot priming and varnishing may then be required and the area sanded prior to the full varnish job.
	VARNISH – POOR CONDITION: If the previous varnish coating is cracking, peeling or generally showing signs of separation over the whole area, it should be totally removed by either scraping, sanding or with a chemical paint stripper such as Interstrip 299E.

PRO TIP: Always work in the direction of the grain, whether sanding or applying varnish. This will avoid scratches that can even show through many coats of varnish



APPLYING VARNISH	
1	We recommend that the first coat of varnish applied is thinned up to 15%-20%. 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 220 grit sandpaper.
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°. Your brush should be used for varnish only.
	A minimum of three full, unthinned coats is recommended for all varnishes. However, to achieve long lasting protection, you should plan to apply up to ten coats, depending on the system. As the number of coats increases, sand in between to increase the level of gloss and depth of luster.

HINTS TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE A PERFECT RESULT EVERY TIME	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Round the edges of any scrapers with a file to avoid gouging. ✓ Keep the sandpaper clean and change it frequently. ✓ On bare wood sand by numbers, finishing the surface with a progressively finer grade of paper. ✓ Do not hard sand edges. Sand only lightly to create enough sand scratches for the next coat of varnish to adhere. ✓ Varnishing is best achieved on warm, dry mornings – cold weather slows drying and dampness ✓ 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. ✓ Alternatively, having cleaned and washed the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> brush, suspend it by its handle to avoid any 'fishtailing' of the bristle. ✓ As the varnish ages in the can you may find there are lumps or contamination. Filtering the varnish into a separate container through a paint filter, cheesecloth or an old stocking is a good solution to this problem. ✓ Always pour the amount of varnish that you expect to use at any one time, into a separate container. ✓ When applying varnish always be sure to have good ventilation. Poor ventilation will result in a hazy or flat finish. ✓ Make sure that all joints are properly bedded down with 214 Bedding Compound. Varnish may not dry over some newly applied caulking type compounds. ✗ Never apply direct from the can, as this will introduce contamination. ✗ 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.