

Handy tips when using Osmo products

1. **Do not** over sand your timber. Osmo products such as Polyx Oil, Polyx Oil Tints, Top Oil and Woodwax colours have a thick consistency, and if you sand the timber too fine, it will close the grain, and stop the oil from penetrating. The result of this will be too much oil on the surface, which will extend the drying time, and may cause watermarking and scratching. For very dense timber such as Jarrah, Kwila, Eucalypts and oily/resinous timbers such as Matai, Totara and some heart Rimu we recommend sanding to a maximum of 80/100 grit. Medium density timbers such as Oak, Tawa, Rimu and Macrocarpa should be sanded to 120 grit maximum. On softwoods such as pine, cedar and kauri, the timber can be sanded to 150 grit. **Do not** use steel wool with Osmo products as this can leave dust which may get caught in the finish and rust.
2. **Do not** over apply Osmo finishes. Apply very thinly and evenly with the grain. Over application will result in too much oil on the surface, which will slow drying, and can result in watermarking and scratching. Remember – less is best. As an example, a 2.5 litre can of Polyx Oil will cover approximately 60 square metres with one coat, or 30 square metres with 2 coats, making the coverage rate around 24 square metres per litre. Under normal circumstances 2 thin coats is all that is required. Anything more than this will result in over application, a patchy and sticky surface and watermarking.
3. When applying by lint free cloth, up to 6 coats may be required to achieve the same level of finish as 2 coats applied with a brush or roller.
4. In summer, when using an Osmo exterior product such as UV Protection Oil or Decking Oil, be sure to apply early morning or late afternoon. **Do not** apply the oil during the heat of the day in direct sun, as this may result in the oil being “cooked”.
5. Use the right equipment for preparation and application – Application can be by brush, roller, lint free cloth or the Osmo hand pad with applicator fleece. For floors, we recommend using Osmo’s 220mm floor brush or a roller. **USE ONLY** Micro Fibre Rollers with a short nap of 3mm - 5mm. We recommend Osmo Micro Fibre Rollers. **Do not use** sponge, mohair or lambswool rollers, or speed brushes as they hold too much oil, and over application will occur. For furniture, apply using a good quality bristle brush, microfiber roller, a lint free cloth such as the Osmo Easy Pad or the Osmo hand pad and applicator fleece.
6. When sanding a floor with a Polivac or similar machine – it must be a proper sanding machine and not a polisher. It is also recommended that any single disc rotary sander be one which spins at low speed (192 rpm or less). Faster machines are not recommended, as they spin at about 350 rpm and may close the pores of the timber too much, which will stop the oil penetrating. Using worn sand paper is not recommended as it can “burn” the surface of the timber closing the pores even more and preventing the correct penetration of the oil.
7. The treatment of oily and resinous timbers such as matai, heart rimu, totara, kwila and spotted gum requires a different finishing system. Please refer to the specific information sheet from Natural Oils website.
8. We also recommend wiping the surface of oily timbers with a solvent such as Osmo’s Brush Cleaner and Thinner prior to oiling. This will degrease the surface and assist both penetration and drying of the Osmo product.
9. Osmo products dry by air exchange (air movement). A house which is shut up will slow the drying time considerably. During the day – if practical – it is better to have all the windows open to create air movement. Overnight, or during the day where windows cannot be opened, we recommend using a small fan to gently move the air around. This should be placed off the floor on a bench top or shelf, with the fan pointed towards the ceiling on low speed.
10. Make sure you **stir the can for at least 5 minutes before use**. We recommend using a proper paint stirrer. Top Oil cans should be shaken well before use.
11. A tip for storing cans which have been used is to cut a piece of food wrap slightly larger than the lid size and push it down onto the top of the oil before replacing the lid. This will remove the air and ensure a crust will not form on the oil, thus extending the shelf life of the remaining contents.
12. Once applied, Osmo Polyx Oil will take approximately 28 days to reach full curing. Under normal climatic conditions, and depending on the timber, the finish should be touch dry in 24 hours. Between 7-10 days it will be about 70% cured. During the curing process, we recommend the finished surface is treated very carefully. Do not cover the floor with cardboard, carpet etc as protection, as this will slow down the curing and may damage the finish. No wild parties. Don’t drag furniture over the floor – lift into position and put felt or similar under the contact points. If possible, keep dogs and cats off the floor as much as possible during the curing process. Their claws may damage the uncured surface.
13. During the curing process, try not wear sweaty socks on the floor. These will contain sweat as well as acid and oil from the body and can stain the uncured surface. If you do wear socks on the newly finished floor, take care as it can be very slippery.
14. Do not leave metal cans such as baked bean cans, pet food cans or metal lids etc on any oiled surface. Place a coaster under the metal. There is a chemical reaction between the type of metal used and the oil, which will result in a permanent black ring – either in the oiled finish or in the timber if insufficient oil has been applied. This is a well-known problem and is applicable to any oil, including Tung oil, Linseed oil or Danish oil etc – whatever the brand.