

HOUSE OF WORKTOPS
ESTD. 1999

How to Osmo Oil your Worktops?

A detailed guide to the perfect finish.

Sanding - The Underdog →

Oiling with Osmo →

Summary of all you need for Oiling →

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5 star Trustpilot reviews

House of Worktops



Over 12 different variations of wood worktops, each variation with over 20 different sizes, and prices ranging from 100 GBP, all the way up to 1500 GBP per worktop. What is the most important factor which will determine how happy you are with your work surfaces?

The Oiling. How well you finish your worktop is 90% of the game. It is almost like the break or make moment that will allow you to fully enjoy your natural, solid timber surfaces. It is that which will determine whether you end up hating your worktops or whether they will last for generations to come.

I think you get the message - oiling is important.

Since we dare to call ourselves UK's wood worktop experts and since our mission is providing worktops that last for generations - It is our duty to provide you with as much support as possible in every imaginable aspect of your worktop journey.

NOTE

Before we dive into the details of the flawless finish, let us remind ourselves of a core feature of wooden worktops - they have an "A" and a "B" side and both sides need to be oiled! That is not producer or supplier specific, but it is a universal practice with wooden worktops. You want to identify the "A" side of your worktop, as that will be the side which will be visible in your kitchen, usually it has better color consistency, fewer knots and natural imperfections. Moreover, to simplify the process for you, we mark the "B" side with a stamp.

So, how do we get a flawless finish?



There are two ingredients to this magic trick - sanding and oiling. But sanding without oiling is useless and oiling without sanding is average. So, make sure you do not underestimate the little touches here and there, quality woodworking is all about the small details and especially about the ones we can not see with our naked eye.

SANDING - THE UNDERDOG!

Summary of all you need for sanding:

01

Electric Orbital Sander

02

Sanding Pads 60, 80, 100, 120 and 240 grit.



Think of sanding as the groundwork that needs to be completed before you get on with oiling. It is like the concrete foundation that needs to go in before building a house. It is like the sharpening of an axe, before chopping down the tree.

If we take a closer look at our solid wood surface, we will see that it is composed of tight, muscle like grains. It is a good analogy to think of the grain as a bundle of hair as well - when you go to a hairdresser, they would never jump into cutting your hair, but they would first brush it and ensure it is not all tangled up. Similarly, you would need to sand (groom) your worktop to make sure it is consistent overall and in an optimal condition for oiling.



Why is all of this important?

The grain of the timber affects its ability to interact with the oil. Think of the wood and its microstructure, it is composed of pores and micro gaps - it is those pores and gaps that serve as channels for the oil to penetrate and merge with the timber.

So what is the grit that puts the grain of our worktop at the optimal state to interact with the oil and achieve the ultimate finish we are after?

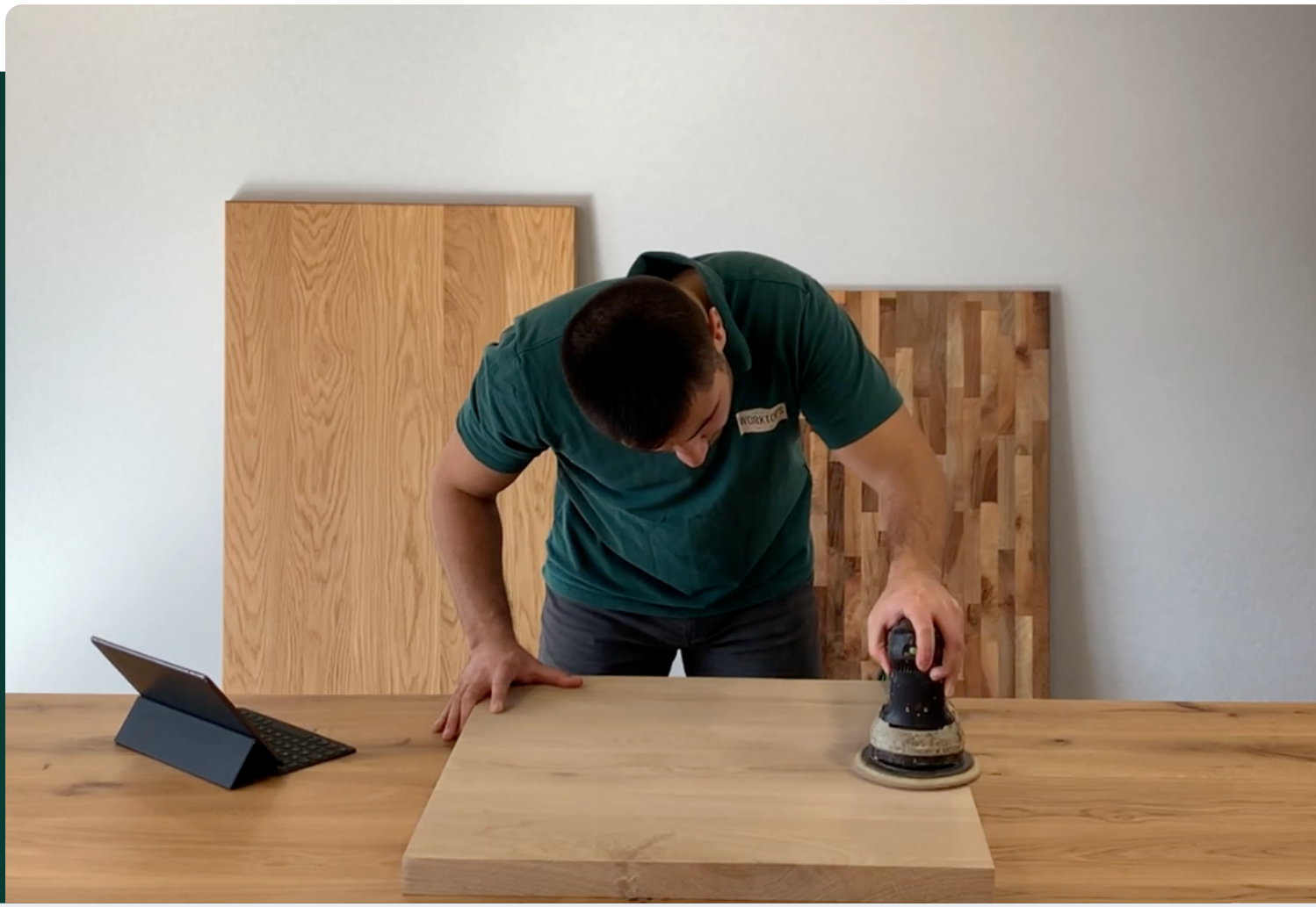
For our hardwood worktops, it is 120 grit.

For the sanding process, we recommend getting your hands on an electric orbital sander, those usually yield the most consistent sanding results.

To start off, we sand with the rougher grits of 60 or 80 to remove any blemishes or scratches. Although it is always advisable to sand along the grain, we can also go across for a couple of strokes to dig into the wood and remove a deeper scratch or an imperfection.

Once we are done with our 60 or 80, we can then move up to 100 and then to 120. Finishing up to 240 grit is also a popular choice, however considering our method of oiling, it is better to keep the grain open at 120 grit. The idea is that we want to take advantage of the small pockets and gaps within the grain as “storage” for the oil that we will be applying on our worktop. At the higher grits, 240 grit or higher, those gaps are usually levelled down. But! Please do keep some 240 grit, as we will need that between the coats of oil.

Sanded to a consistent 120 grit throughout, our surface is now at an optimal state to absorb the oil.



OILING WITH OSMO!

Oiling is straight forward, or is it?

But “Oiling” is a packed word and if we try to unpack it, those are some of the questions we find:

- How easy is it to apply?
- How thick should the coat be?
- How and what do I apply with?
- How often do I need to re-oil?
- How many coats do I apply?
- How well does it protect?
- How easy is it to maintain?
- How easy is it to repair?

A ton of questions and naturally a ton of different opinions and recommendations out there. Different oils have their strengths and weaknesses, some are extremely good in one thing, others are good in another. But we need to choose the one which has the entire package.

We tested the majority of the oils and did a ton of experiments. There are two options which stand out - Osmo Oil and Danish Oil. Although Osmo is our preferred choice, we also have a Danish Oil Oiling Guide, in case you are a fan of Danish Oil. PS If you have other oil recommendations, please feel free to drop me an email to yashar@houseofworktops.co.uk, I would love to test them!

So why Osmo?

Because it has the entire package! It is extremely durable, easy to apply, easy to repair and more importantly it provides amazing surface protection. On top of that, it comes in three finishes: Matt, Satin and Gloss.



How are we going to apply the oil? What are we going to use?

In general, there are different options to choose from: bristle brush, foam brush, roller, piece of cloth, non abrasive pad and etc. I am pretty sure that a flawless finish is achievable with every single application method, but what is the one method which makes the entire process easier, simpler and decreases the probability of anything going wrong?





Roller Sleeve + Non Abrasive Pad

Roller sleeves with their thin microfiber texture are ideal to equally and thinly spread the oil throughout the worktop. There are very few application methods that can match the effectiveness of the roller sleeves.

And what is a non-abrasive pad?

It is a fine pad with high grit. It has a coarse texture, but it is unable to scratch the surface of the worktop. We will be using it to burnish the surface and remove any raised grain in between the coats of oil.

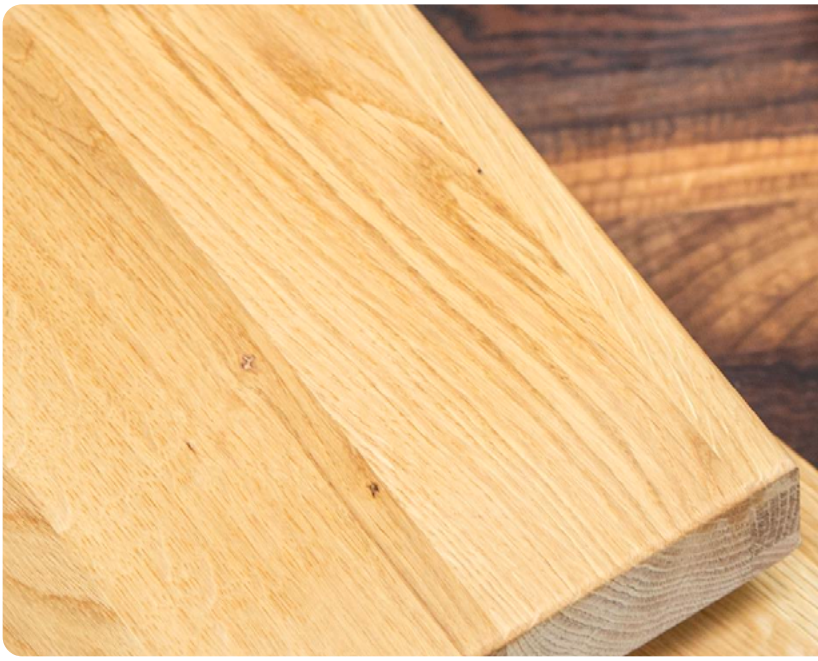


SUMMARY OF ALL YOU NEED FOR OILING!

- Pair of latex gloves
- Roller Frame and Roller Sleeves
- Non-abrasive pad, cut into smaller pads
- Osmo Top Oil - Matt, Gloss or Satin
- Orbital Sander with 240 grit pad
- Paper towel or a piece of cloth



FIRST COAT OF OIL



Let's get your Hands Dirty!

01

- Shake up the tin of Osmo Top Oil.
- Put on your gloves.
- Assemble your frame and roller sleeve.
- Prepare your non-abrasive pads.

NOTE

Before building up the protection on the "A" side of your worktop, you need to apply a single coat to the back "B" side. That is for moisture protection. If you take a shortcut and skip that, you run the risk of bowing and splitting worktops!

02

Spill some Osmo anywhere on the surface and get rolling.

03

The Osmo needs to be spread out as thinly as possible! Once again - as thinly as possible! The rollers can store a lot of the oil inside, so try to apply light pressure and keep rolling over the entire surface.

04

If you have dry areas you have not yet covered, start rolling there to use the oil stored, then go right back to the areas you have covered previously so that dry roller soaks in the extra oil from the surface. Repeat this to make sure you are spreading equally and as thinly as possible. This is essential to achieve the perfect finish.





05

- Just to recap the sequence: spill Osmo, spread with roller, change between an oiled area and a dry area to control the amount of oil on the surface.

06

Once the surface is covered, we need to do the finishing strokes. Take your roller and roll from one end of the worktop to the other end without stopping in a straight line. You can follow the staves of the worktop whilst applying minimal pressure. Go slowly and one row at a time until you cover the entire surface with those strokes. It is important to go along the grain without interrupting the stroke, in order to get a uniform flawless finish.



07

Use a source of light in the background to check the surface for any pooling of oil or any areas you might have missed. You want a very consistent look throughout the surface, without any visible interruption marks from the roller.



08

Osmo Oil is a hard wax oil, which means that it is a combination of natural oils and resin. Whilst you are oiling, you do not want a thick layer of hard-wax sitting freely on the surface, living a life of its own. You want a thin layer of oil settling down along the grain and the pores of the worktop, getting absorbed and merging with the timber.

09

We will not be wiping off the excess from the surface, but given that we have applied thinly, we will allow the oil to become a part of the surface.

10

A lot of people, within their good intentions to have a well-protected worktop, tend to shortcut their oiling journey by applying 2 thick coats of oil instead of 3 thin ones. But they do not realize that the oil is NOT meant to be sitting on the surface. It is a natural product with the ideal viscosity to be absorbed by the pores of the timber.

11

Allow 24 hours for the oil to dry completely.



SECOND COAT OF OIL

01

- The surface should feel natural, but rough. Do not worry about that, that is what we want. It just shows that the wood has absorbed the oil and consequently the grain of the timber has risen. That is how it is supposed to be and it shows that we have done the oiling properly.

- Now use the non-abrasive pad to de-nib the surface. Move along the grain with light pressure and that should smoothen the surface. If you do not have a non-abrasive pad, use a high grit sanding pad, 240 grit or higher and lightly move along the grain.

- Wipe off any dust from the surface with a clean piece of cloth.



02

- Ready to oil.

- Spill some Osmo and get rolling in absolutely the same way as previously - as thinly as possible by interchanging between the oiled surface and the dry areas on the worktop.

- Cover the entire surface by oiling thinly.

- Allow 24 hours for each coat to dry.

THIRD COAT OF OIL

01

- Repeat the process from Second Coat.
- Use a non-abrasive pad to remove the raised grain.
- Wipe the surface to get rid of the dust.

02

- Spill some Osmo and get rolling.
- Spread as thinly as possible, interchanging between the oiled areas and the dry areas helps.

03

- Allow 24 hours to dry



PUT THE CHERRY ON THE CAKE

Three extremely thin coats of Osmo, your protection should now be flawless! It now time to put the cherry on the cake and get the silky smooth matt finish that your beautiful kitchen deserves!





Prepare the following items for the next step:

- Electric Sander with 240 grit on.
- Piece of Cloth for wiping off the dust
- Roller
- Osmo
- Paper Towel or pieces of cloth that we will be using to remove the excess oil

Get your sander and put on your 240 grit. You will need to go over the surface and make sure you do not miss any parts of the worktop. Because the grit is so high, we are not removing any of the oil, but we are just working on the smoothness.

- Once you are done, the surface should look a little pale, dusty, but extremely smooth to touch.
- Take some paper towel or piece of cloth and wipe the dust of the surface.
- One last time... spill some osmo and spread it out with your roller.
- Once you have covered the worktop, take fresh paper towel and start wiping off all the oil from the surface.
- Apply pressure, imagine as if you are polishing the surface and change the paper towel frequently.
- If the worktop looks and feel semi-dry, you are now done. Your job is complete.
- Allow your worktop to dry for 8 hours

Enough said, you are now done! Feel it, test it and judge for yourself. How does it feel? Spill some water, wine, coke, how does it do? Does it pass the water test?

We have done this a thousand times and we know what the results are - the perfect finish. A finish that will make sure your worktops last for generations!

Please do let me know what you think and how it went for you, drop me a line tohow it went for you, drop me a line to yashar@houseofworktops.co.uk
I would love to hear your comments and your results!

I hope this was useful.



Best wishes,
Mert and Murat Yashar

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