

HOUSE OF WORKTOPS
ESTD. 1999

When should I re-oil my worktop?

The water test! →

Touch Up or Bare Wood? →

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THE WATER TEST! But When and Why?

A particularly important test which helps us identify the level of oil protection on your timber worktop.

If we do the test during the oiling process, it will indicate whether the protection on the worktop is sufficient. But we can also do the test after having used the worktop for a couple of months and the subsequent results will indicate whether it is now time to re-oil your worktop.

What is this Water Test?

Start by spilling some water on your worktop. If the water drops form a bead, the surface is sufficiently well protected and it does not need to be oiled just yet. But if the water sits flat - it is time to re-oil your worktop and build up the protective layer.



So, the water sits flat on your worktop?

The most important thing - do not ignore this sign. Remember, we want this worktop to be able to last for as long as it is needed, even if that is for generations!

You do not need to do the water test in particular, just observe your worktop daily as you are in the kitchen and see how water sits on the surface. Because let's be honest, at the end of the day, what is the water test? Just you carefully looking at how water sits on the surface.

Let us put your Carpenter Hat and get on with our tasks.

Touch Up or Bare Wood?

To begin with, you need to establish whether your worktop needs a “touch up” or whether it needs a proper maintenance. It is important to distinguish between those two, because this will determine whether you need to just lightly sand and then re-oil or whether you need to strip down your worktop to bare wood and then build up again.

But how do we know which it is - It is simply up to you. If your worktops look to be in good condition, free of scratches, blemishes, and discolorations then they just need a touch up to reinforce the oil protection. But if your worktops seem like they have been through a “3 yearlong divorce”, with scars, marks and dents - then it is a better idea to go bare wood!



Touch Up!

In that case, start with sanding your entire surface with 240 grit. Make sure you pay attention to any small scratches or discolorations - if you cannot remove them with 240 grit, go down to 160 grit to dig into the damaged areas, but then make sure you build up again to 240.

Once the surface is clean of blemishes, and has been sanded consistently at 240 grit, we can now put on a coat of oil. If you are using Osmo Top Oil, just a single coat should be sufficient. If you are using Danish Oil, you will need two coats.

If you need to refresh your memory on oiling, here is our

Osmo Oil →

Danish Oil →

We have just given you an indication of how many coats you might need. But once the worktop is dry, perform the water test once again and if you are happy with the results - amazing! But if the water is still sitting flat, simply repeat the oiling process once again.

Bare Wood!

The biggest advantage of solid wood worktops is the fact that they can get worn out, damaged, scratched and then easily rejuvenated back to their initial glory.

As years go by, especially if you have a busy kitchen, you might end up with a surface that is scratched, marked and with a sink area that is discoloring. In which case, just a touch up is not an option for you, but you rather need complete make-over.

So, to start off the process, you need to strip your worktop down to bare wood.

- Begin the process with 60 or 80 grit orbital/electric sander. The bulk of the sanding will be done at those lower grits, because they will allow us to strip down the protective layer and dig into the damaged areas. Sand, sand and sand until all your worktops are at bare wood and free of blemishes.

- Now this is a good and clean surface that we can work our way up to the flawless finish once again. If you have been using our Oiling Guidance, now we just need to repeat the same process.

- If you are using Osmo Top Oil, three extremely thin coats of Osmo will seal the deal for you. If you need to remind yourself of the detailed Osmo oiling information click here.

- Or you might be a fan of Danish Oil, in which case 4-5 extremely thin coats of Danish Oil will get you there. Again, here is the detailed breakdown of the Danish Oiling Guide we have prepared for you.

- Once you are done with the coating, TEST YOUR SURFACE AGAIN. Make sure you take the time and get it done properly, so that your wooden surface serves you well.



Our mission:

Wood worktops that will last for *generations!*

Thank you and we hope that this was useful. If you have any questions, feel free to get in touch with me on

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We would love to hear from you with some feedback or comments on this guide!

Best wishes,
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