HOUSE OF WORKTOPS
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How to apply Danish Oil on your worktop?

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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.

Being a worktop supplier and calling ourselves the UK's wood worktop experts - 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 one of the fundamental features of wooden worktops. They have an "A" side and a "B" side. That is not producer or supplier specific, but it is a universal standard with wooden worktops. What you want from the beginning is to identify the "A" side of your worktop, as that will be the side which will be visible in your kitchen. Usually the "A" side has better color consistency, less knots and natural imperfections. Moreover, to simplify the process for you, we have marked 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.



Lets get on with the Sanding!

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

If we take a closer look at our solid wood surfaces, we will see that they are a thing of beauty, but if we look closer, we will see that the wood is composed of fiber-like grains. It is similar to a tight bundle of hair. Imagine going to a hairdresser, they would never immediately 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 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.

But we also must be cautious how we sand the worktop. For example, when we sand to an extremely high grit (500 grit), what we are doing is completely evening out the gaps and the pores and hence reducing the ability of the timber to absorb and interact with the oil, in which case the oil will just sit on top of the worktop without merging with it.



So the optimal grit is working our way up from 80 to 240. We start with a rougher grit to remove any blemishes or scratches. Although it is always advisable to sand along the grain, we can go across the grain for a couple of strokes to dig into the wood and remove a scratch or an imperfection.

Once we are done with 80, we can then move up to 100 or 120. When moving up the grits, you can either go one step at a time (80 to 100 to 120..) or you can skip a step (80 to 120 to 160..). Just do not take the shortcut and go from 80 to 240! That is all for the “A” side of the worktop. The “B” side we can leave at 120 grit.

At 240 the surface should already feel smooth and consistent, in an optimal state for oiling.

Oiling with Danish Oil!

Oiling is straight forward, or is it? But when we say oiling, what exactly do we mean?

- How easy is it to apply?
- How thick should the coat be?
- How long does it last?
- 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 - Danish Oil and Osmo Oil. Both choices are equally successful.
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 Danish Oil?

Because it has the entire package! It is durable, easy to apply, easy to repair, good protection and an amazing mat finish.



How are we going to apply the Danish Oil?

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 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.





We will be using 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. It is our preferred application method due to the way the texture interacts with the surface during the oiling and rubbing process. With this application method, we are doing three things at the same time.

- We are Oiling
- We are buffing in the oil inside the pores of the wood
- We are burnishing the surface of the timber. In other words, whilst oiling, the coarse texture of the pad is evening out any bumpy patches and it is already removing any raised grain. Hence, we will NOT need to do any intermediary sanding between the coats! That is the biggest benefit of this application method. Saving you time and simplifying the process.



Summary of all you need!

- Pair of latex gloves

  To Protect your hands from Danish Oil. It can get a little sticky when the oil dries on your hands.

- Non-abrasive pad

  We will be using the pad with application purpose.

- Danish Oil

  Rustin's Brand is what we recommend.

- Paper Towel

  Just a standard paper towel to wipe off the excess oil from the surface.

Let's get your Hands Dirty!

01

- Shake up the tin of Danish Oil. It says on the tin, shake firmly and spread thinly. That is our motto.
- Put on your gloves.
- Prepare your non-abrasive pad.

NOTE

Before building up the protection on the "A" face of your worktop, you need to apply two coats to the back "B" side. That is for moisture protection. If you take a shortcut and skip oiling the back of the worktop, you run the risk of bowing and splitting worktops! Remember, quality woodworking is all about the small details.

02

- Spill some Danish Oil anywhere on the surface and get rubbing with one of your pads. Unlike Osmo, with Danish Oil you want to have some oil sitting on the surface of the worktop before you wipe off all the excess. That is why you can be a little more generous with it.
- Make sure you apply light presume as that will help you buff in the oil and make the most out of the oil that is stored inside the pad.

- Do not forget to cover the edges of your worktop.

NOTE

Use a source of light at the background to check the surface for any pooling of oil or for any areas you might have missed.

- Once you are done with the oiling, allow a couple of minutes (10 minutes) for the Danish Oil to get absorbed into the wood.

03

- Right after that, take some fresh paper towel and start removing all excess. Go over the entire surface with light pressure, as if you are trying to polish the surface whilst remove the excess. Also, do not forget to change your paper towel with a fresh one as it gets soaked up.

- Once you are done, the surface should feel semi-dry. Under a source of light, you should not be able to see any oil pooling or any oil sitting on the surface.





Danish Oil is a mixture of linseed oil, other natural oils, resin and drying agents. Whilst you are oiling, you do not want the hard-wax (resin) sitting freely on the surface, living a life of its own. You want the hard-wax oil deep inside the grain and pores, completely merged with the timber. That is where the oil belongs.

A lot of people try to shortcut their oiling journey by applying 2-3 thick coats of oil instead of 4-5 thin ones. But they do not realize that the oil is NOT meant to be sitting on the surface. The biggest advantage of Danish Oil is that it is a natural product with the ideal viscosity to be absorbed by the pores of the timber.

Since we are using a non-abrasive pad to apply and to remove all excess, we have already removed any raised grain and have removed any rough patches from the surface. Hence why, we do not need to do anything between the coats.

NOTE

If you are using a piece of cloth or a brush of any kind, between each coat of oil you would need to lightly sand the surface with a high grit sandpaper (240 grit) to remove any of the raised grain and bumpy bits. The difference comes from the fact that a cloth or any brush simply slides over the grain. Whereas, the coarse texture of the pad, combined with a light pressure, allows us to do two things at the same time and even more importantly, do them to a perfect quality standard.

04

- Allow 24 hours for each coat to dry.
- Repeat the process until you get 5 coats of Danish Oil on the surface and on the edges. Just to reiterate - you need to end up with two coats on the “B” side and five coats on the face “A” side.
- If you have an undermount sink, you might want to apply an additional coat of oil to the edges and the sink area.
- Test it and see how you feel.
- The moment your fifth coat has completely dried, see how you feel about your worktop! Take a step back and judge for yourself.
- It should feel smooth, the finish should be matt or satin and it should look professionally finished.

Besides the look, the protection should also be flawless. That is our primary objective, because you do not want your worktop to be a decoration and you do not want to be overcautious around it, especially when you have a home full of kids and get-togethers. That is why we dare you to spill some coffee or wine on the surface. Spill and wipe off. Are you happy with how easy it is to clean up?

We have done this thousands of times and we know that those steps yield the ultimate finish that will give you ease of mind and will ensure that your wooden worktop lasts for generations to come. If you have any difficulties at all or if something is not working out for you, feel free to contact me directly on yashar@houseofworktops.co.uk or call the office number and ask to speak to Yashar. On the other hand, if you completely nailed the process and you are happy with your results, I would also be happy to hear back from you with some photos and comments!

Go over this content and use it as your guide, “sharpen your axe” before you get on with your oiling and we can promise you, you will be extremely satisfied and proud of the work that you have done with your wooden worktops.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you with your success stories!



Wishing you the best of luck,

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