How do I re-oil my wooden worktop?

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There are a lot of different worktop types out there, starting from your Marble, Quartz, Laminate, Compact, Solid Wood etc. and each has its own advantages. But when it comes to the question, which ones are capable of lasting for generations, whilst staying in flawless condition - only one stands out?

Solid Wood Worktops



Within our Osmo/Danish Oiling Guides, we emphasize on doubling down on the quality of the oiling process, as that is the number one factor which will determine how happy you are with the surface and how long it will last. And the quality of the wood working is all about the small details, so whilst oiling your worktop, it is good to stay with the mindset that we want to get the oiling done, such that the surface shall last for generations. If you do that, your actions will follow!

And the re-oiling is just the consistent repetition of the oiling process we outline.

Touch Up or Bare Wood?

You need to establish whether your worktop needs a “touch up” or whether it needs 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 you know which one - It is up to your judgement. 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, all sanded consistently at 240 grit, we can now put on a coat of oil. Usually if you are using Osmo Top Oil, just a single coat should be sufficient. If you are using Danish Oil, you could need two coats. BUT!! That which will determine how many coats you need is not going to be your judgement, but our infamous WATER TEST! Here is our Water Test Guide in case you need to refer back to it. So, after each coat of oil perform the water test and if it is a pass - great, if not - put another coat. If you need to refresh your memory on oiling, here is our Osmo Oil Guide and Danish Oil Guide.

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.



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 sanding pads and an 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 Osmo/Danish Oiling Guidance, we just need to repeat the same process from the beginning. A short summary would be:

- Gradually sand from 60 grit to 120 grit.

- 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 guide here it is.

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.

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

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



Best wishes,

Mert and Murat Yashar,

Directors of House of Worktops

yashar@houseofworktops.co.uk

Mobile: 07438 345029

Team of House of Worktops

sales@houseofworktops.co.uk

delivery@houseofworktops.co.uk

Landline: 01727 260688