ZAR® Wood Stain

Premium Quality

Interior Wood Finishing

Project Guide
Think about the colors that you have always been drawn to. No matter what your design theme is color can be the unifying element that pulls each room together into a harmonious environment. There is no absolute rule about color and where particular colors must go in the home. Ultimately, it’s best to go with what appeals to you instead of choosing a color scheme just because it’s what everybody else thinks is hot at the moment.

**TRADITIONAL DECORATING**

When trying to achieve a traditional look, perhaps utilizing family heirlooms or garage sale finds, mix and match colors such as Cherry, Teak Natural and Provincial. These are basic wood tones that match with a mix of different colors to achieve a cohesive look. Staining your moldings to match will add the right finishing touch. Adding a little punch of color like a child’s chair finished in a deep red wood stain like Merlot will add a decorative touch and personality.

**ASIAN FLAIR**

It is easy to create an exotic oriental feel that will mix with any decorating style and produce balance, serenity, beauty and comfort. This can be accomplished through the use of richly colored accents that are embellished with circles and lines. While traditional decorating encourages groups of three, Asian décor uses only one or two objects in the same space. Use colors that make you feel good. Deep wood stains like Merlot, Black Onyx and Rosewood are shades found in the Orient and can be mixed with small splashes of color from the opposite end of the color spectrum like Golden Oak which will mimic the hue of bamboo.

**CONTEMPORARY** (pictured left)

A contemporary look can be achieved with clean lines and smooth furnishings without intricate details. Today’s contemporary look is a blend of comfortable, livable elements that create a sophisticated, fresh feel. Any and all colors can be used in this design style. Accent pieces are what tie all of the colors together and carry your eye throughout the room. This is the best style for mixing family heirlooms, old dorm room furniture and whatever you found on the clearance floor. Go ahead and grab the Golden Oak, Moorish Teak, Rosewood and any other wood stain color that expresses your personal style.
Preparation

The best results will come from planning ahead and having everything you need before you start. Asking the right questions and studying the condition of the chair, table or antique heirloom you are working on will help you achieve the look you desire.

A wood finishing project is virtually three steps—Prep, Stain and Protect. Remember to read the labels and prepare your space with the appropriate protection, temperature, ventilation and lighting.

RESTORING OLD WOOD
If you are going to simply restore a piece of old furniture you want to first clean the wood surface. You can use a cloth moistened with mineral spirits (paint thinner) to remove surface contaminants. If you like the color, find a ZAR Wood Stain tone that will match or have your hardware store match the color from a knob or drawer using ZAR Wood Stain Tint Base. Wipe the wood stain on bare or worn spots. Follow the directions for dry time and apply a protective finish.

REFINISHING OLD WOOD
If the finish has begun to peel and crack or the finish is broken or chipped or the paint color is outdated, it is time to take it down to bare wood. If the stripping material raises the grain of the wood, you will have to give it a light sanding. If the finish is stubborn and will not come up with stripping material, you could try a mechanical sander.

FURNITURE STRIPPING
ZAR Remover is ideal for removing old finishes from vertical or horizontal surfaces. Work on one section at a time, starting with the easy horizontal areas. Spread the remover on the surface following the label instructions. When the finish has softened, gently scrape to remove. Be careful when scraping, remember the wood will be soft and can be easily gouged. You can use steel wool on curved surfaces. Use as many coats of the stripping material as necessary to get the job done.

After you have removed the inferior finish, you may see some trouble areas such as dark rings or spots and paint remaining in the pores of the wood. You can bleach out old moisture stains with chlorine bleach. Sponge bleach over the entire surface, wait 5 to 10 minutes and wipe dry. Then apply bleach to just the stain, this will lighten the spots as it dries. Continue applying to the spot until you are satisfied with the result. To remove paint from the pores of the wood, you can apply fresh stripper and work into the wood with a nylon scrub brush or a toothbrush.

WOOD REPAIR
Use ZAR Wood Patch to replace missing, badly damaged, or rotted wood. It can be used for everything from nail holes, nicks and cracks to major repairs. Allow patch to dry and sand according to directions. Now it is time to stain and protect your project.

PREPARATION FOR NEW WOOD
On new unfinished wood, start with medium sandpaper such as #120 to #150 grit, and then finish with fine sandpaper, such as #220 grit until the surface feels smooth to the touch.

On previously finished wood, use fine sandpaper, #220 grit. Finally, remove the sanding dust. With oil-based stain and finishes, use a cloth dampened with mineral spirits. When using water-based stain and finishes, use a cloth dampened with water.

Even new wood needs to be prepared for staining and finishing. First remove all hardware, knots, hinges, etc.

Clean the wood surface with a cloth moistened with mineral spirits (paint thinner). Allow the surface to dry.

Use ZAR Wood Patch to fill any holes, cracks or staple marks. Follow application, dry time and sanding instructions on the product label.

Always sand the surface before applying a stain or finish. This step assures the new finish will bond to the wood.
ZAR® WOOD STAIN

Wipes on like furniture polish to stain and seal in one quick, easy application. It gives wood a natural range of color and enhances the wood grain.

ZAR Wood Stain Tint Base available for these and other custom colors and for use as an optional wood conditioner.
ZAR® ULTRA MAX WOOD STAIN COLORS

ZAR ULTRA MAX Oil Modified Wood Stain applies easily and penetrates evenly for rich, uniform color. Special features include low odor, fast drying and easy cleanup. In addition, the Advanced Green Phase Resin Dispersion Technology utilizes environmentally friendly resins that result in a VOC compliant product.

ZAR ULTRA Max Wood Stain Tint Base available for custom colors and for use as an optional wood conditioner.

ULTRA ZAR® PLUS WOOD STAIN COLORS

ULTRA ZAR PLUS is a unique combination of stain and polyurethane-in-one that lets you brush on rich color and lasting protection in less than half the time. Choose from six wood tones available in gloss or satin sheens.

Create a beautiful, rich finish by following these simple steps for staining.

1. Test the color of the stain on a hidden area, or on a scrap piece of the wood you intend to stain. Always stir ZAR Wood Stain thoroughly before and during use.

2. Use a clean lint-free cloth (like an old t-shirt), slowly apply an even coat of stain, working it into the wood in the direction of the grain. Use another clean cloth to wipe off excess stain.

3. Allow the stain to penetrate into the wood. ZAR’s “Controlled Penetration” gives you plenty of time to wipe out streaks and lap marks. The amount of stain you wipe off will determine the final wood tone. If you want a darker appearance you want to leave more of the stain on. Follow the product label for dry time. Do not allow excess stain to dry on the wood.

4. To darken the color, apply a second coat, using the same process as the first coat.

5. Allow to dry thoroughly in a dust-free area. Now your project is ready for a protective finish with ZAR Polyurethane.

DANGER! Rags, steel wool or waste soaked with ZAR Wood Stain may spontaneously catch fire if improperly discarded. Immediately after use, place rags, steel wool or waste in a sealed water-filled metal container.

These chips have been reproduced as accurately as possible in process color lithography.
**Wood Protection**

Protect your beautiful stained or unfinished wood with a clear topcoat. Start with a dust free, dry surface to ensure a smooth finish.

Begin with a clean, dry surface. Any existing wax, oil or glue needs to be removed. The key to a beautiful appearance is good surface preparation. See instructions under Preparation.

Always stir the contents before using. **DO NOT SHAKE.** Shaking will produce air bubbles. Stiring is not required on gloss finishes.

Apply a thin coat in the direction of the wood grain with a smooth, even stroke. Use a natural bristle brush with an oil-based finish and a synthetic bristle brush with a water-based finish. Do not over-brush the finish. After applying the polyurethane, leave the room and close the door to prevent contaminating the finish. Allow to dry following the label instructions. Lightly sand using fine sandpaper, #220 grit and wipe the surface between coats. For oil-based finishes, use a cloth dampened with mineral spirits. For water-based finishes use a cloth dampened with water. Additional coats provide added protection.

**CHOOSING THE RIGHT ZAR® CLEAR FINISH**

**ZAR Oil-Based Finishes**

**ZAR Classic Wood Finish** – This product is a high solid, VOC compliant durable protective finish for beautiful results in commercial and residential applications.

**ZAR ULTRA Polyurethane** – Super fast-drying oil-based polyurethane that dries in two hours on bare wood. Tough abrasion resistant finish, great for hardwood floors, cabinets, furniture and woodwork.

**ZAR Tung Oil Wipe-On Finish** – Wipes on easily with a cloth. Ideal for interior wood surfaces. Produces a smooth, even finish every time. An ideal bar top finish.

**ZAR ULTRA Exterior Oil-Based Polyurethane** – A super fast-drying clear wood polyurethane finish that dries in two hours. Formulated for exterior surfaces, it contains ultraviolet radiation absorbers and antioxidants. It is the ideal choice for all exterior surfaces that need a clear protective coating such as siding, gables, and patio furniture and metal and fiberglass entry doors.

**ZAR Water-Based Finishes**

**ZAR Quick Dry Sanding Sealer** (for use under oil-based polyurethane) is a fast drying sanding sealer, dries in one hour on bare wood. It can be used on interior wood floors, furniture, paneling, cabinets, countertops and woodwork.

**ZAR ULTRA MAX Wipe-On Finish** applies easily with a cloth for a smooth, beautiful, protective coating.

**ZAR ULTRA MAX Floor Rejuvenator** restores and renews the beauty of wood that has become dull, scratched or shows signs of wear.
ZAR® Wood Stain is ideally suited for all types of doors because of its heavier consistency, higher pigment levels and excellent adhesion characteristics.

Both ZAR Wood Stain and ZAR Polyurethane have been used successfully on doors made by leading door manufacturers, such as Masonite®, Jeld-Wen®, Therma-Tru®, Pease® and Flashtite®. ZAR is the perfect choice when you want to beautify any type of new door or improve the look of an old door.

Correct Staining Procedure

Follow the staining procedure diagram at right. Work on one section of the door at a time. The numbers correspond to the order in which you should work. The arrows indicate the direction of the grain for each area of the door.

Follow the same procedure when you apply the second coat and then finish. Allow the whole project to dry thoroughly and start enjoying your door.

Using the Graining Tool

Practice using the ZAR® Graining Tool on a scrap piece of painted wood or wood or a panel on the door and simply wipe it off the stain repeatedly until you learn the technique. The tool head is adjustable to achieve different graining patterns.

Heartwood Grain

Stir ZAR Wood Stain thoroughly. Begin on the inside of panel (1) according to the Staining Procedure Diagram. Wipe on a thin, uniform coat of ZAR Wood Stain. Then, while exerting downward pressure with your index fingers, (25 - 5 lbs.), draw the graining tool down the section, moving the tool at a constant speed. While drawing the graining tool towards you, slowly rock it down and up to create a natural heartwood appearance. Remember not to stop the tool while pulling a grain.

If you make a mistake, don't worry. Simply take your stain cloth, wipe wood over the area and grain it again. Or, completely wipe off what you have applied with a cloth dampened with paint thinner or mineral spirits and start over (see a door graining video at www.uav.com).

Does your door need a new coat of polyurethane?

Look directly at the door, and then view from an angle off to the side. If no visible discoloration, breakdown or dulling of the polyurethane is observed, inspect again in 6 months.

If, when looking directly at the door it is satisfactory, however when viewed from an angle the door appears dull or has a slight white or milky discoloration, sand lightly to assure proper adhesion of the polyurethane, and apply a coat of the appropriate ZAR Polyurethane. Be sure to buff lightly to avoid damaging fiberglas or Masonite® door surface.

If you see a milky white cast when looking directly at the door or if the polyurethane is cracked or peeling, you must strip off the old finish using a remover. Reprime the surface if necessary (metal or primed doors), stain and apply the appropriate ZAR Polyurethane.

Embosed Wood Grain Doors

For best results, lay the door on a padded sawhorse. Remove all hardware, clean all dirt, dust and greasy stains using a cloth and mineral spirits (paint thinner). Mask the glass and adjacent to it, windows, moldings and remove all hardware.

Stain and Feather Technique

Follow the Staining Procedure Diagram on the left. Stir ZAR Wood Stain thoroughly. Apply using a lint-free cloth in a circular motion (like you apply shoe polish). A foam brush, working the stain into the embossed grain pattern.

Yearly Maintenance

It is important to inspect your door yearly. Wipe the door using paint thinner or mineral spirits to remove any surface contaminants.

Repair the scratches or dings using a cotton swab dampened with ZAR Wood Stain. Dab the cotton swab on a clean cloth before touching up the door to remove excess stain. Then use a clear soft paintbrush to feather the repair. Protect the stain with ZAR Polyurethane.
Results

Today's furniture comes in a variety of woods, from hardwoods like Oak, to softer woods like Aspen and Pine. ZAR® Wood Stain will give you professional looking results on all types of woods.

ZAR Wood Stain's unique controlled penetration full-bodied formula allows you to work at your own pace without the fear of streaks or lap marks.

THE "DROP TEST"

This "Drop Test" is the perfect demonstration to see the ZAR Wood Stain difference. Both wood chips show a drop of stain that was allowed to stand on a piece of wood for 15 minutes. When the ZAR Wood Stain, on the far left, was wiped out, there was no evidence of the drop or a blotch mark. However, the sample on the right shows how other stains leave a dark, blotchy spot where the drop was initially placed on the wood.

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