

OIL-BASED POLYURETHANE

FROM SURFACE PREPARATION
TO FINAL CURE

PREPARE THE SURFACE



- Sand through a progression—usually ending around 180 grit.
- Make final passes with the grain and soften sharp edges.
- Inspect with a raking light.
- Vacuum, wipe lightly with mineral spirits, and let it evaporate completely.

APPLY THE POLYURETHANE



- Stir thoroughly from the bottom up.
- Use the brush recommended on the can.
- Apply thin coats with the grain and maintain a wet edge.
- Tip off lightly, check for runs, and stop before the finish becomes tacky.

BUILD THE FINISH



- Don't sand or recoat while the surface is tacky.
- Test a hidden spot: **dry powder means ready; gummy residue means wait.**
- Sand dust nibs and imperfections lightly—especially around edges.
- Remove the dust and repeat until you reach the desired number of coats.

FINISH & CURE



- Optional: sand the final full-strength coat with 400–500 grit.
- Wipe on a 1:1 mixture of oil-based poly and mineral spirits.
- **Dry to the touch does not mean fully hardened**—follow the can.
- After several days, a folded paper bag can round over tiny final dust nibs.

Finishing safety



- Ventilate well.
- Keep away from ignition sources.
- Dispose of finish-soaked cloths safely.



MAKE THINGS
SIMPLIFIED



Workshop Guide

Scan with your phone
for video examples and
greater detail

