



## Guidelines for applying Osmo Products to Spotted Gum and other hard timbers

Spotted Gum, Sydney Blue Gum, Jarrah can be difficult to finish due to hardness, oily and resinous nature of the timber. They require different application techniques to other timbers.

- Do not over sand the timber. The recommended grit to finish is 100-120. Any finer will close the timber's grain and prevent the oil from penetrating. This will cause issues with drying.
- Rather than water popping the timber, we recommend using a solvent to degrease the surface. This will raise the grain slightly enabling better penetration of the oil. Allow to dry.
- Apply 1 **very thin** coat of Osmo Woodwax Clear Extra Thin (code 1101) as a primer. This product will drive away any oil/resin from the timber's surface, and allow penetration of the top coats.
- Once dry, apply a **very thin** coat of Polyx Oil Rapid (codes 3232 for satin and 3262 for matt). This is a slightly thinner version of normal Polyx Oil, and will dry quicker. The finish is identical to normal Polyx Oil.
- There is no need to sand between coats. If the surface is to be de-nibbed, then the finish must be absolutely dry first. Use only a slow speed buffing machine with a purple pad in a light pass over the floor. Do not use a heavy, fast machine such as a Polivac as this can pull the oil out of the timber before it has cured.
- Once dry, apply a second **very thin** coat of Polyx Oil Rapid as above. Do not apply the second coat until the first coat has dried.

The coverage rate for the Woodwax Extra Thin should be about **20 square metres per litre**. For the Polyx Oil Rapid, the coverage rate should be about **30 square metres per litre**. Less coverage than this will mean over application, resulting in drying issues and scratching of the finished surface.

Application can be by brush, scraper or roller. If using a roller, it must be a **low nap (3-5mm) microfibre roller**. Do not use a foam, mohair or wool roller as they will hold too much product. The ideal application is by brush, with the oil spread as far as it can go, before using a dry microfibre roller to even out the surface if required. On areas over 100 square metres, we recommend the oil be buffed into the surface while wet, using a white pad on a slow speed buffing machine.

On normal timbers, the floor should be touch dry after 12 hours or so. On spotted gum and matai, it may be dry after 12 hours – or it may take 3-4 days or longer. It all depends on the oil and resin present in the timber. It may be that some boards are dry and others remain tacky after several days. Osmo products cure by oxidation, or air exchange. A floor will dry quicker in a well ventilated house with open windows. If the house is to be shut overnight, we recommend using a small fan placed on a bench or similar, pointed to the ceiling at low speed and left running overnight. This will circulate the air. Do not use a heater to shift the air, as this will slow the drying.

If the floor is still tacky after several days, the surface can be lightly buffed with a slow speed buffing machine and a white pad to assist the drying.

Other issues with these timbers is scratching and watermarking. Full curing time is approximately 28 days. Once fully cured, Osmo finishes are impervious to most fluids, and are highly scratch resistant. If the floor is watermarking and scratching easily, it means:

- The oil has not fully cured.
- The floor has been sanded too fine. The oil can't penetrate and remains at the surface.
- Over application of product, resulting in too much oil at the surface.

- Any combination of the above.

**Key points:**

- Osmo products are easy to apply. Do not use them like polyurethane, as they are a penetrating finish - not a surface film.
- Treat it more like a stain than a paint or varnish.
- Apply a very thin layer. More is **not** better – less is better.
- Work it into the timber. Do not paint it on, as you will apply too much.
- Never let the finish puddle or build.
- If in doubt, apply less.
- **Do not** apply a second coat until the first coat has dried

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