



## Helpful tips for working with *Soft Wax*...

*Apply Soft Wax sparingly...* a little wax goes a long way!

Always *apply Soft Wax in thin, even coats.* This will ensure even drying and result in an even sheen when buffing (a thicker area of wax will dry slower and those areas will not buff to as high a sheen)

Rub or brush Soft Wax over the surface, spreading the wax thinly. Some people like to use a circular motion, while others (like Annie!) prefer a more sweeping movement. On large flat surfaces, *end in a motion that follows the grain of the wood.*

On tabletops, apply Soft Wax with the grain and then *even off by wiping from end to end.* Try to avoid leaving any stop and go marks, as these can be hard to buff out when the wax has dried.

*Wait until all the solvents evaporate before buffing.* If you buff too soon, you will effectively be stripping the wax from the surface. This is the primary reason a waxed surface appears to have shiny and dull areas. Although drying time can take as little as 10-20 minutes and will buff out nicely, a couple of hours or even overnight is best if time permits. You will know the wax is ready to buff when it looks dry or no longer feels cool to the touch. If possible, buff Soft Wax in the same direction as the wood grain.

*Buffing lightly will produce a satin sheen,* while more vigorous buffing can produce higher sheen or even a gloss.

*Don't leave the wax on too long before buffing.* It simply is harder to buff out. In any case, you should not be alarmed. This can easily be corrected by simply applying another coat of wax. The solvents will melt the underlying layer, making it easier to remove the excess wax and create a beautiful sheen.

*Use soft 100% cotton cloths for buffing,* and have lots of them. Old and laundered t-shirts, linens, cloth diapers, and terry shop towels work well. The softer the buffing cloth, the higher the resulting sheen. When buffing, switch to a clean cloth when the old one becomes clogged with wax.

Applying *two coats of Soft Wax* is best. The reason is that it is nearly impossible, even for a professional, to apply a single coat of wax evenly and without missing a spot. Doing so will also ensure complete wax protection, improving the performance of the wax. The first coat is always more difficult to apply because of the absorbency of the Chalk Paint™. Subsequent coats of Soft Wax are easier to apply and buff.

*Maintaining a wax finish is easy.* Dust with damp cloth followed by a soft, dry 100% cotton cloth. Don't use polishes or oils over your coat of wax. Wipe up spills as soon as possible to prevent spotting. Use coasters under glasses and vases, placemats under dinnerware, and pads or trivets under hot dishes. Reapply a coat of wax when you can no longer buff the wax to a shine.

*Wax finishes are easy to repair* by simply re-waxing the affected area.

Wax is by nature *water resistant* but will spot if not wiped immediately. It is also alcohol soluble and should not be used in bar areas.

*Once Soft Wax is applied, no other finish can be applied* to the project to help protect the wax. Attempting to add lacquer, polyurethane, or any other topcoat to a wax finish is futile.

*Annie Sloan Soft Wax was designed to work with Chalk Paint™ as a system*, but we understand when a customer wants to use something different. Choose wisely. In general, if the first use mentioned on the can is polishing wood floors, don't use that wax on furniture. It is likely to contain a high percentage of carnauba wax and designed to be buffed with a mechanical floor buffer. You'll have a hard time buffing by hand. Butcher's Bowling Alley Wax and Minwax Paste Finishing Wax fall into this category.

*Cleaning your wax brush is easy!* Clean your wax brushes with hot water and a good grease cutting detergent. Working a little mineral spirits into your brush first will help to clean off any wax that has dried into your brush. Big Fat Lye soap is also a fantastic cleaner for both your paint and wax brushes.

*You can make only two mistakes applying wax. You can put too much on, and you can try to buff it out too soon.*

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