

Sutherland Welles Ltd.®

Sustainable, natural & earth-friendly Polymerized Tung Oil wood finishes.

Floor Sanding Prep



Original Formula & Botanical Polymerized Tung Oil

Sanding Process

step 1: First Sanding

The initial cut either removes finish from an existing floor or on a new floor removes the chatter lines left from the planner that surfaced the board and any variation in height from board to board known as “over-wood”. The grit to be used depends on new or old, usually **50-60 grit**.

step 2: Sanding sequence

After the initial sanding, ideally there are three more sandings; **80, 100 and 120 grit sandpaper**. The third surface sanding using the 120 grit should be done lightly. For an oil finish, you need a finish surface that is furniture grade. Modern milling practices create boards that are almost finish ready with minimal sanding required to eliminate chatter marks, etc. Always start with as high a grit as possible to minimize scarring the wood. This is very important with soft woods such as Eastern White Pine and Spruce.

step 3: Edging

Begin edging with a grit above the previous directional sanding, i.e. directional sanding at **80 grit** – edge out at **100grit**.

step 3: Screening

Flooring contractors will blend the drum sander line and edger line by screening the floor to marry the center with the perimeter. This should be done thoroughly and carefully to minimize swirls in the wood. Any circular sanding should always be followed with directional sanding. Poor edging will create a halo effect around the perimeter of the room which will become evident once the stain cures and settles into all the swirl lines left by the edger or the screening process. Sutherland Welles Sealers and Stains are formulated to penetrate deep into the wood. Any sanding flaw not properly addressed in the wood preparation step will appear once the sealer and/or stain is applied. Not pretty! To verify all swirl lines are removed, put a drop light on the perimeter and look towards the light- it will highlight any lingering sanding blemishes.

Helpful Hint!

- All sanding is directional with the grain.
- Edging or screening should always be followed with directional sanding.
- Avoid using hand held orbital sanders because they create swirls that show up after they are stained.
- **Special Surfaces:** If the flooring is a reclaimed timber or new wood with special surface treatment such as hand-planing, you will need to prep the wood with hand sanding only. Hand sanding will smooth the surface without changing the special character marks.