

# Sutherland Welles Ltd.®

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

## Ceilings



### Murdoch's Hard Sealer

Using the Hard Sealer alone will build a uniform film finish with a highly polished oil look. The number of coats applied and the application technique determines the sheen levels.

For ceilings, utilizing a brushed technique with the resins of the Hard Sealer more easily achieve a uniform appearance, which can be hard to attain with just a polymerized tung oil finish alone.

#### Before You Get Started

##### Murdoch's Applicator Options

*Brush:* Natural white china bristle brush

*Rag:* Scott® blue paper shop towels

*Spray:* HVLP compatible (*no dilution necessary*)

*Roller:* Short Napped Synthetic WATER Based Roller

*\*Best to back brush/wipe if using a roller.*

*Oil based rollers will carry TOO much product.*

##### Other Tools For Project

- Sandpaper (220 & 400)
- Mineral Spirits or Di-Citrusol
- Tacking Cloth (*Scott® blue paper shop towels*)

*Helpful Tools: Pole Sander & Fan*

##### Optimal Finishing Conditions

- Weather conditions 55-75°F
- Humidity: 65% or less

Working outside optimal conditions can lengthen curing time between coats and overall. Air flow helps finish the cure. **Tacky surfaces are NOT cured.**

**Using stain?** It's best to use Hard Sealer as the first coat to close the pores of the wood.

### Application Instructions

#### Wood Preparation:

All wood surfaces should be free of lint, dirt, grease, wax, oil and old paint. If you are refinishing old wood, please make sure to remove any loose old finish.

**Before Applying FIRST Coat:** Sand the wood using 220 grit paper. Avoid using higher grits as they close down the wood pores interfering with maximum penetration in the initial coat.

#### Coats should be VERY THIN. No Puddles.

##### Step 1:

- Apply Murdoch's *Hard Sealer*
- Don't wipe off excess
- Let cure 24 hours

##### Between Each Coat: Cure Test

*Finger tips gliding easily against the grain & a white powder from sanding indicate that you can safely apply another coat.*

##### Step 2:

- Sand with 400 grit
- Vacuum & tack surface  
*(Tack: Dampen rag with Mineral Spirits to clean surface)*

##### Step 3:

- Apply Murdoch's *Hard Sealer*
- Wait 20-25 min.
- Wipe unabsorbed finish
- Let cure 24 hours

##### Step 4:

- Sand if rough with 400 grit
- Vacuum & tack surface

##### Step 5:

- Apply Murdoch's *Hard Sealer*
- Wait 20-25 min.
- Wipe unabsorbed finish
- Let cure 24 hours

*Repeat steps 4 & 5 to build more sheen.*

**Gentle use after 24 hours. Light use after 72 hours.  
Resin full cure through 7-14 days & Full Oil cure through after 30 days  
(+/- based on local humidity/elevation/temperature)**

## General Application Tips & Frequently Asked Questions

### Troubleshooting with Murdoch's

#### **Why am I having bubbles in my finish?**

Too much finish is being applied. Use less finish on your brush and move the finish to make a very thin coat.

#### **What to do if bubbles dry in the cured finish?**

You need to lightly sand them away with fine sand paper (600 grit should remove them). If that doesn't work, switch to the next coarser grit of sandpaper using even pressure across the entire surface. Wipe the dust off with a dampened cloth with mineral spirits to see if they gone. Bubbles must be removed before applying more finish.

#### **Why does my finish have tiny spots after the first few coats are cured?**

This usually only happens when using a wiping technique with the first couple of coats. It's known as *speckling* or *bleed back*, which is when the oil seeps back out of the wood and cures causing small spots or dots. Typically, this happens on open grain woods, like Oak and Walnut, and most often with the first couple of coats if they are being wiped. The friction of wiping speeds up the evaporation of the solvent in the finishes and makes the Polymerized Tung Oil very thin and it migrates to the surface as the solvent gases off. This can be avoided by NOT wiping the excess off your first coat. Apply a thin layer and let it soak into the wood and cure. This almost always will eliminate these spots from happening in the first place.

#### **How do I get rid of tiny speckles of glossy oil cured on the surface?**

See above for how to keep that from happening. It's important to deal with them as soon as you notice them. They aren't going to disappear with adding another coat. Sand the surface lightly with 400 grit sand paper. Wipe the surface down with mineral spirits on a cloth. Let dry and observe the surface. If it's a large surface area, but not all areas have the spots, you should still sand the entire surface. You can't spot sand and have the end result be uniform.

#### **Why do I have uneven sheen with streaks of dull and shiny areas?**

This is called *streaking* and *flashing*. This happens when a prior coat of finish didn't dry properly before another coat was applied. Moisture is trapped under the surface of the finish creating the streaks. This will need to be sanded back down to that layer and allowed to dry and re-coated.

#### **Why am I seeing scratch marks in the wood?**

You did not effectively sand out these marks before application. Oil finishes will absolutely highlight improper sanding marks. You will have to sand them out with a courser sandpaper and rebuild from there.

#### **What can I use to fill in voids in the wood?**

Two-part epoxy. You can take it a step further and mix sanding dust with the epoxy before filling. You can also purchase tinted epoxy or dyes to add to epoxy to match or highlight the voids.

#### **Can I spot repair a Murdoch's finish?**

Yes, you can if there is a scratch or blemish on the finish. Sometimes wiping our Murdoch's Hard Sealer over a scratch will make them disappear and blend in. Blemishes or marks in the surface layer of finish will need to be removed by lightly sanding with fine sandpaper first. Sometimes the entire board will need to be refinished to have it blend in or the entire surface of a counter top or table.

#### **Can I use a wax over your products?**

If you choose to, we recommend using Teddy's Polymerized Tung Oil Paste a week after the last coat is applied. Keep in mind that wax has a tendency to "halo" or leave rings on a dining room table under hot drinks/food. It will also need to be removed before any re-coating can occur. We suggest not using wax on dining tables, counters, or coffee tables if wet drinks will be placed there. Sutherland Welles also has a Tung Oil Polish that is a great alternate to paste wax. It can be used as extra protection and as maintenance product.

#### **What if I want to stain this project?**

Please refer to our Staining Instructions for more information and techniques of staining with Murdoch's.

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## General Application Tips & Frequently Asked Questions

### Troubleshooting with Murdoch's

#### Why did my finish turn "Milky"?

There are many environmental & application reasons WHY your finish can turn milky on the surface.

##### *Environmental:*

- Moisture in Wood
- Water or moisture getting into the finish
- Residue on surface
- Relative humidity too high, preventing curing
- Curing TOO fast (heated floors too hot)
- Storage of finish too hot or too cold

##### *In Process:*

- Added thinner (Do NOT thin Uralkyd 500)
- Over working the finish
- TOO much finish, laid on too thick
- Finish was not cured before application of the next coat

#### What do I do to fix this?

- Try to gently heat the finish with a hair dryer or a heat gun.
- Sand down and re-coat.
- Wait a day or more to see if it disappears.

### Care & Storage Instructions for Murdoch's

#### How Do I Care for a Sutherland Welles Murdoch's Finish?

- *To CLEAN:* Use Sutherland Welles Wood Cleaner OR 1 cup vinegar or ammonia to 1 gallon warm water with a soft, clean cloth. Do not use any cleaner with a SOAP base (Murphy's Oil Soap/Bona etc.) under any circumstances, as they will leave a film that will gum up the surface of the oil. Do not use a steam cleaner.
- *To REFRESH:* Apply Sutherland Welles Tung Oil Polish and buff with a clean dry cloth. This will help with the longevity of the finish, delaying the need to recoat.
- *To RE-COAT:* Scuff lightly with fine steel wool, sandpaper or pad. Vacuum & Tack. Re-apply finish as needed.

#### I have an unopened can of finish. How long is it good for?

With the exception of our Exterior line of products, any unopened can of our finish has no shelf life.

#### What's the best way to store an opened can of finish?

The most reliable way to store residual finish is to use the StopLoss bags available on our website.

##### *Other methods:*

- Use a product like Bloxygen, which is a spray of Nitrogen gas that puts a gas layer on the oil to protect the finish from oxygen in the partially full can.
- Clean the can inner rim of the can well so the plug seats uniformly and firmly in place and store it inverted.
- You can also pour it into a smaller container (metal or glass) leaving little air space- make sure to label it properly. Perfect way to reuse old sauce or jam jars!
- Marbles or clean rocks can also be dropped in to take up the airspace.

#### What can I do if my finish gels up in the can after I have opened it?

This only happens in a partially full can that has been used. If the finish is thick and gel-like, the finish has oxidized in the can. You can attempt to thin it down by adding mineral spirits or our Di-Citrusol and stirring it gently to see if you can coax it back into solution. You may need to pass it through a fine paint strainer to remove any small globs.