



Sutherland Welles Ltd.®

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

Guitars, Mandolins, & Ukeleles



Application Instructions

Wood Preparation:

Wood surface should be free of lint, dirt, grease, wax, oil, and old paint. If refinishing old wood, make sure to remove any loose old finish.

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

Coats should be VERY THIN. NO Puddles.

Step 1:

- Apply *Interior Polymerized Tung Oil**
- 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 *Interior Polymerized Tung Oil**
- Wait 25-30 min.
- Wipe unabsorbed finish
- Let cure 24 hours

Step 4:

- Lightly sand with 600 grit
- Vacuum & tack surface

Step 5:

- Apply *Interior Polymerized Tung Oil*
- Wait 25-30 min.
- Wipe unabsorbed finish
- Let cure 24 hours

Step 6:

- Lightly sand with 600 grit
- Vacuum & tack surface

Step 7:

- Apply *Interior Polymerized Tung Oil*
- Wait 25-30 min.
- Wipe unabsorbed finish
- Let cure 24 hours

Repeat Steps 6 & 7 to build higher sheen as desired.

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

Interior Polymerized Tung Oil

Guitar and mandolin makers favor the softer feel of our Polymerized Tung Oil finishes on the neck of the instruments. Use on the body of the instrument for stellar harmonics.

Our Interior Polymerized Tung Oil line is VOC Exempt & has a light tung nut scent when working.

Before You Get Started

Interior Applicator Options

Rag: Scott® blue paper shop towels

↳ *BEST Option for hand rubbed look.*

Brush: Natural white china bristle brush

Spray: HVLP compatible (*no dilution necessary*)

Other Tools For Project

- Sandpaper
 - 220 (Max before first coat)
 - 400 & 600 (Between coats)
 - #0000 Steel Wool can be used
- Mineral Spirits
- Tacking Cloth (*Scott® blue paper shop towels*)

Helpful Tools: Vacuum, Dust Brush, & 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.**

*Do I Need SEALER?

Use Sealer for the first coat or two if:

- Working with an exotic, oily wood. Sealer will help prevent over saturating the oil in the wood on early coats. A non wax shellac could also seal the wood.
- Using stain? Use Sealer to mix with an oil stain or as the first coat to close the pores of the wood.

You can make your own Sealer by mixing each lustre with some mineral spirits. See Page 2 for details.

General Application Tips & Frequently Asked Questions

Troubleshooting with Interior Polymerized Tung Oil

What proportion of Mineral Spirits (or Di-Citrusol) do I mix in to make a Sealer?

Low Lustre: 10% (*Low Lustre is VERY close to Sealer*) Medium Lustre: 20% High Lustre: 50%

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 coarser 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 Interior Polymerized Tung Oil?

Yes, you can if there is a scratch or blemish on the finish. Sometimes wiping our Interior Polymerized Tung Oil 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 Teddie'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 recoating 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 Polymerized Tung Oil.

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General Application Tips & Frequently Asked Questions

Care & Storage Instructions for Interior Polymerized Tung Oil

How Do I Care for a Sutherland Welles Original Formula 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.