

Handy tips when using Osmo products

1. **Do not** over sand your timber. Osmo products such as Polyx Oil, Polyx Oil Tints and Top Oil have a thick consistency, and if you sand the timber too fine, it will close the grain, and stop the oil from penetrating. The end result of this will be too much oil on the surface, which will extend the drying time, and will cause watermarking and scratching. For very dense timber such as Jarrah, Kwila, Eucalypts and oily/resinous timbers such as Matai, Totara and some heart Rimu we recommend sanding to a maximum of 80/100 grit. Medium density timbers such as Oak, Tawa, Rimu, Macrocarpa as well as plywood should be sanded to 120 grit maximum. Softwood such as pine, cedar and kauri should be sanded to 150 grit maximum.
2. **Do not** over apply Osmo finishes. Apply very thinly and evenly with the grain. Over application will result in too much oil on the surface, which will slow drying, and can result in watermarking and scratching. Remember – less is best. As an example, a 2.5 litre can of Polyx Oil will cover approximately 60 square metres with one coat, or 30 square metres with 2 coats, making the coverage rate around 24 square metres per litre. Under normal circumstances 2 thin coats is all that is required. Anything more than this will result in over application, a patchy and sticky surface and watermarking.
3. Use the right equipment for preparation and application – Application should be by a good quality bristle brush. For floors, we recommend using Osmo's 220mm floor brush or a roller. **USE ONLY** Micro Fibre Rollers with a short nap of 3mm - 5mm. We recommend Osmo Micro Fibre Rollers. **Do not use** sponge, mohair or lambswool rollers, or speed brushes. These hold too much oil, and over application will occur.
4. When sanding a floor with a Polivac or similar machine – it must be a proper sanding machine and not a polisher. It is also recommended that any single disc rotary sander be one which spins at low speed (192 rpm). Faster machines are not recommended, as they spin at about 350 rpm and may close the pores of the timber too much, which will stop the oil penetrating. Using worn sand paper under faster machines is not recommended as it can “burn” the surface of the timber closing the pores even more, and preventing the correct penetration of the oil.
5. On oily tropical timber species such as Matai, Kwila and Merbau, as well as some dense Australian Hardwoods such as Spotted Gum, we recommend the use of Osmo Wood Wax Clear Extra Thin, rather than Osmo Polyx (Hardwax) Oils. Polyx Oil Rapid may be able to be used under certain circumstances, but we strongly recommend doing a test first.
6. We also recommend wiping the surface of oily timbers with a solvent such as Osmo's Brush Cleaner and Thinner prior to oiling. This will degrease the surface and assist both penetration and drying of the Osmo product.
7. Osmo products dry by air exchange (air movement). A closed up house will slow the drying time considerably. During the day – if practical – it is better to have all the windows open to create air movement. Overnight, or during the day where windows cannot be opened, we recommend using a small fan. This should be placed off the floor on a bench top or shelf, with the fan pointed towards the ceiling on low speed.
8. Make sure you **stir the can for at least 5 minutes before use**. We recommend using a proper paint stirrer. Top Oil cans should be shaken well before use.
9. A tip for storing cans which have been used is to cut a piece of glad wrap slightly larger than the lid size and push it down onto the top of the oil before replacing the lid. This will ensure a crust will not form on the oil, and will extend the shelf life of the remaining contents.
10. Once applied, Osmo Polyx Oil will take approximately 28 days to reach full curing. Under normal climatic conditions, and depending on the timber, the finish should be touch dry in 24 hours. Between 7-10 days it will be about 70% cured. During the curing process, we recommend the floor is treated very carefully. Do not cover the floor with cardboard, carpet etc as protection, as this will slow down the curing and may damage the finish. No wild parties. Don't drag furniture over the floor – lift it into position, and put felt or similar under the contact points. If possible, keep dogs and cats off the floor as much as possible. Their claws will damage the uncured surface.
11. During the curing process, try not wear sweaty socks on the floor. These will contain sweat as well as acid and oil from the body, and can stain the uncured surface.
12. Do not leave cans such as baked bean or pet food cans on any oiled surface. Place a coaster under the can. There is a chemical reaction between the type of metal used in can manufacture, and the oil which will result in a permanent black ring. This is a well-known problem and is applicable to any oil, including Tung oil, Linseed oil, Danish oil, varnish or polyurethane – whatever the brand.