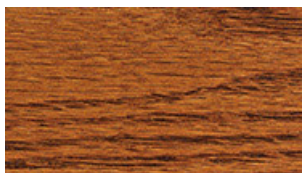


# What Color is Your Existing Finish?

Light Finish   Medium Finish   Dark Finish

## Changing the Color of a Medium Finish



Gunstock



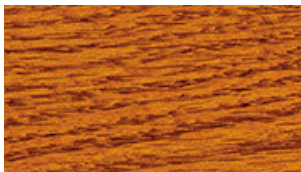
Provincial



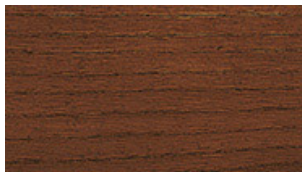
Special Walnut

If your existing finish is a medium wood tone similar to or such as Minwax® Wood Finish™ colors, Colonial Maple, Gunstock, Provincial or Special Walnut, follow these tips:

- To darken your color to medium/dark brown, use PolyShades® American Chestnut or Mission Oak.



Wood Finish™ Colonial Maple



PolyShades® Mission Oak

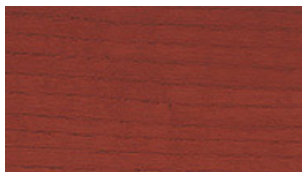


New Color

- To darken the color and add or intensify red tones, opt for PolyShades® Natural Cherry.



Wood Finish™ Provincial



PolyShades® Natural Cherry

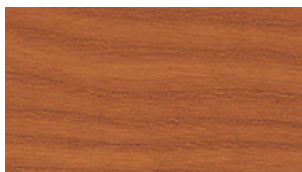


New Color

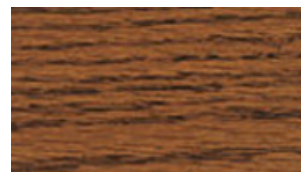
- PolyShades® Olde Maple and Pecan will intensify red tones without any significant darkening of the color.



Wood Finish™ Special Walnut

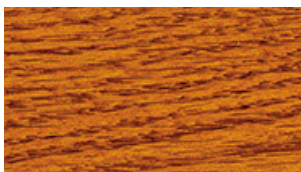


PolyShades® Pecan



New Color

- PolyShades® Honey Pine and Classic Oak will not have a lot of impact on the existing color, but will help cover up imperfections in an old, worn finish, while providing a layer of protection.



Wood Finish™ Colonial  
Maple

PolyShades® Classic Oak

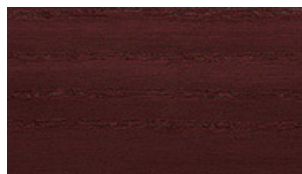
**New Color**

- PolyShades® Bombay Mahogany and Classic Black will transform the existing finish into their respective colors.



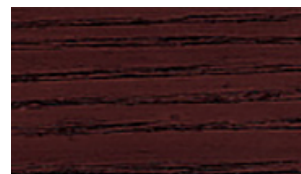
Wood Finish™ Provincial

+



PolyShades® Bombay  
Mahogany

=



**New Color**

## How to Prepare Your Project

### For wood previously stained with Minwax® Wood Finish™, but not yet finished:

- If the wood is dirty, first make sure that it's carefully cleaned with [Minwax® Wood Cabinet Cleaner](#) and a soft cloth.
- If the wood has been recently stained, it should NOT be cleaned as the cleaner may remove or dilute the colorants.
- If the wood has been stained but not finished, DO NOT scuff or sand. Doing so will remove the color from the edges, leaving the project looking uneven.
- Next, apply PolyShades®.

### For wood previously coated with a clear protective finish:

- Clean the existing finish with [Minwax® Wood Cabinet Cleaner](#) to remove dirt and grime.
- Lightly scuff the clean, dried existing finish with a synthetic sanding pad or #220-grit sandpaper.
- Use a bristle attachment on a vacuum to remove all of the dust.
- Next, apply PolyShades®.

## How to Apply PolyShades®

After the wood has been prepared according to the steps above, it's time to transform your wood with [PolyShades®](#). For the best results, follow these instructions:

- Stir PolyShades® thoroughly, using a clean stirring stick. Gently repeat the stirring every 10 minutes to assure that the color remains evenly distributed throughout the polyurethane.



- Work quickly as you apply PolyShades® the length of each board in smooth, even strokes. Use the tip of your

- Using a high-quality, tapered natural bristle brush, dip only 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch of the bristles into PolyShades®.
- On a scrap piece of wood, practice brushing out a few strokes of PolyShades® to get a feel for how it flows onto the wood. Take care to apply an even coat of the product and remember: thin coats are easier to control than thick ones.

- brush to gently smooth out the finish. Always apply PolyShades® moving your brush back and forth in the direction of the wood grain.
- As you return to the board with a freshly dipped brush, start brushing a few inches beyond where you left off, and then carefully blend the new PolyShades® back into the PolyShades® you previously applied. Doing so will help eliminate "lap marks."
  - Once you have achieved an even layer of PolyShades®, leave it alone. "Dabbing" will leave deposits of color in each spot touched by your brush. "Over-brushing" will drag the color with your bristles, resulting in an uneven application.

Products **▶ PolyShades® Color Guide**

See all the beautiful colors of PolyShades®

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