



Our Favorite Tips FROM THE WORKSHOP

How to make your own wiping polyurethane

An old cabinet maker passed this tip along to me quite a number of years ago when he noticed I was struggling with getting that final finish perfect! He shared with me the secret that eliminates bubbles, streaks or missed spots is using paint thinner as a leveler and applying 5 to 6 thin coats using a cotton cloth to apply the coats.

BEFORE YOU START - When applying this finish over stain I wait 72 hours for the stain to dry before applying this solution. It does tend to pull some of the stain off the item so letting it dry thoroughly helps maintain the color.

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Paint thinner
- Oil based polyurethane (I use [Minwax Satin](#), but any oil based product will work)
- Cotton cloths



THE FIRST TWO COATS

Mix this together for the first two coats and apply, waiting approximately 6 hours between each applications depending on temperature and humidity in your area.

- 2 parts paint thinner
- 1 part oil based polyurethane (I use [Minwax Satin](#), but any oil based product will work)

COATS THREE - SIX

For the third - sixth coat mix as follows and apply, waiting approximately 6 hours between each applications depending on temperature and humidity in your area.

- 1 part paint thinner
- 2 parts oil based polyurethane

If you miss a spot anywhere just wipe that spot and the mix does the rest. I find I do not have to sand or steel wool as often between coats and each coat goes on quickly and dries faster than other methods I've used. I have used this mix on everything from tabletops to toys to cabinets and find it stands up to just about everything. We have a breakfast table we have used daily for the past 8 years and it shows no wear at all.

If you've struggled with brush marks on your final finishing coat, give this a try. I'd love to see your finished project, share on Instagram and tag me @baynecustomwoodworking - THANK YOU!