

FURNITURE FACELIFT

HOW TO PREP, PAINT, AND PROTECT WOOD FURNITURE

WHAT YOU NEED

1. DROP CLOTH

2. STRIPPER

There are a variety of options; those that claim to have fewer chemicals also take longer to work.

3. POWER SANDER

Sanding by hand: 100-200 strokes per minute
Power sander: 6000-8000 strokes per minute

4. PUTTY KNIFE

5. SANDPAPER

Fine-grit, medium-grit, and sanding blocks

6. CLOTHS

7. PAINTER'S TAPE

8. PRIMER

9. PAINT

Oil-based paints are long-lasting and can be used in cooler temperatures, but have a strong odor that may last for weeks.
Latex paints dry quickly and don't have a lingering odor. They work best in warm, dry temperatures. Latex paint can swell the grain of wood, so it's best to sand between coats.

10. BRUSHES

11. ROLLERS

12. PASTE WAX

Look for a blend of beeswax, carnauba, candelilla, and paraffin to seal and protect furniture.

13. FINE STEEL WOOL



PREP



PROTECT

Lay down a drop cloth to protect floors from spills and splatters.



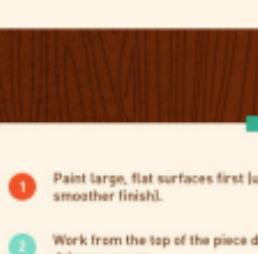
CLEAN

Use a damp cloth and/or a wood-safe cleaner on the entire piece of furniture including drawers.



REMOVE HARDWARE

Unscrew handles, knobs, pulls, and hinges. Seal them in a jar or bag so no parts go missing.



BREAK IT DOWN

Take a "before" photo to help you remember where everything goes or mark each piece with a number when you remove the drawers and doors.



STRIP

Use paint stripper if the current finish is bubbling or chipping, has many visible layers of paint, or if you plan on staining. Apply the stripper and let it sit for 24 hours (some varieties can be removed after 30 minutes). Use a putty knife or plastic scraper to remove chunks of paint.



ROUGH SAND

Use a medium-grit sandpaper to remove dirt, residue, and any current finish (if no stripping is necessary).



REPAIR

Fill any holes or cracks with wood filler and a putty knife. Once dry, sand over repair spots with a medium-grit sandpaper.



FINE SAND

Use a fine-grit sandpaper or sanding block to lightly smooth.



CLEAN

Use a clean, damp cloth to wipe away dust and particles.



TAPE

Mask off areas you don't want to paint including drawer boxes, cabinet interiors, or hardware that's difficult to remove.



PRIME

Not all pieces need priming, but it's a good idea to prime bare wood to help paint or stain adhere.



PROTECT

Wait at least 24 hours. Protect paint with wax or furniture seal. Dry for at least 10-15 minutes. Buff with a clean cloth or fine steel wool.



HANDS OFF

Do not touch or move the furniture for at least two days to avoid smudges or nicks. If you are not waxing the furniture, let the finish set for a couple weeks.



REPLACE HARDWARE

Use old or new hardware.

BEFORE



AFTER



FURNITURE REHAB SAFETY



Wear chemical-resistant gloves, a protective respirator mask, and a dust mask or respirator to protect skin and avoid inhaling fumes and loose particles.



Check your state's regulations for hazardous materials including materials.



Work in a well-ventilated area. Put stained clothes outside to dry since combust while wet.



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REFINISHING AN OLD PIECE OF FURNITURE CAN BE BOTH COST-EFFECTIVE AND REWARDING.

While the entire process—from prep to finish—requires some time and patience, your new beauty will be well worth it.

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