Minwax® Stains Comparison Chart

Use the chart below as a guide to selecting your stain. Click on any product for more details.

Product	ldeal For Use On	Application Tools	Recommended Preparation	Number Of Coats	Time To Recoat	Dry Time	Recommended Clear Protective Finish	Colors
WOOD FINISH Preferring Stall Preferring	Wood furniture, woodwork, cabinets, doors, trim, molding and hardwood floors	Natural bristle brush, foam applicator, cloth	Minwax® Pre- Stain Wood Conditioner (oil-based)	1 coat. To darken the color, apply a second coat after 2-4 hours (time dependent on color).	2-4 hours depending on color	2-4 hours depending on color	Minwax® Fast- Drying Polyurethane, Minwax® Helmsman® Spar Urethane. For a water- based finish use Minwax® Polycrylic™ Protective Finish.	29 wood — tones - click link below to see colors.
Wood Finish Water-Based Semi- Transparent Color Stain	Ideal for small projects, unfinished furniture, cabinets, doors and trim. Not for use on floors.	Clean rag or synthetic brush	Minwax® Water Based Pre- Stain Wood Conditioner	One Coat color. To intensify color, a second coat may be added.	1-2 hrs to intensify color	1 hour	Minwax® Polycrylic™ Protective Finish.	Tintable
MINWAY WOOD FINISH Water-Based Solid Color Stain	Ideal for small projects, unfinished furniture, cabinets, doors and trim. Not for use on floors.	Synthetic brush	Minwax® Water Based Pre- Stain Wood Conditioner	One Coat color. To intensify color, a second coat may be added.	1-2 hrs to intensify color	1 hour	Minwax® Polycrylic™ Protective Finish.	Tintable
Gel Stain	Woodwork, doors, cabinets, furniture, molding, trim, accessories and non-wood surfaces such as metal, veneer and fiberglass - not recommended for floors	Natural bristle brush, foam applicator, cloth	Minwax® Pre- Stain Wood Conditioner (oil-based)	1-2 coats depending on the surface.	8-10 hrs	24 hours	Minwax® Fast- Drying Polyurethane and Minwax® Helmsman® Spar Urethane.	-12 wood - tones - click link below to see colors.
Polyshades®	Wood furniture, doors, woodwork, cabinets, accessories - not recommended for floors	Natural bristle brush	Minwax® Pre- Stain Wood Conditioner (oil-based)	2 coats. To deepen the color, apply a third coat.	after 6 hrs	6 hours	Optional, for additional luster or sheen a clear protective finish can be applied. Recommended finishes include Minwax® Fast-Drying Polyurethane or Minwax®	-14 wood — tones - click link below to see colors.

Wipe-On Poly.

Product	ldeal For Use On	Application Tools	Recommended Preparation	Number Of Coats	Time To Recoat	Dry Time	Recommended Clear Protective Finish	Colors
Water Based WoodSheen®	Wood furniture, doors, woodwork, cabinets, accessories	Cloth	Optional, to help ensure uniform acceptance of the stain and finish, use Minwax® Water Based Pre- Stain Wood Conditioner	1 coat. For a deeper color and sheen, wait one hour and apply a second coat.	after 1 hr	After 1 hour, the surface is dry to the touch. Wait overnight before subjecting the wood to normal use.	Optional, for additional luster or sheen a clear protective finish can be applied. Recommended finishes include Minwax® Wipe-On Poly or Minwax® Water Based Wipe-On Poly.	6 wood tones - click link below to see colors.
Express Color™	Wood furniture, woodwork, cabinets, accessories	Soft cloth	Optional, to help ensure uniform acceptance of the stain and finish, use Minwax® Water Based Pre- Stain Wood Conditioner	1 coat. For a deeper color and sheen, wait one hour and apply a second coat.	after 1 hr	After 1 hour, the surface is dry to the touch. Wait overnight before subjecting the wood to normal use.	Optional, for additional luster or sheen a clear protective finish can be applied. Recommended finishes include Minwax® Wipe-On Poly or Minwax® Water Based Wipe-On Poly.	4 wood tones, 4 decorative colors - click link below to see colors.
Wood Finishing Cloths Wood Finishing Cloths	Wood furniture, woodwork, cabinets, accessories	n/a	Optional, to help ensure uniform acceptance of the stain and finish, use Minwax® Water Based Pre- Stain Wood Conditioner	1 coat. For a deeper color and sheen, wait one hour and apply a second coat.	after 1 hr	After 1 hour, the surface is dry to the touch. Wait overnight before subjecting the wood to normal use.	Optional, for additional luster or sheen a clear protective finish can be applied. Recommended finishes include Minwax® Wipe-On Poly or Minwax® Water Based Wipe-On Poly.	5 wood tones - click link below to see colors.