



Handy tips when using Osmo products.

These tips are an accumulation of 25 years experience dealing with Osmo products. They do not cover every situation as that would be impractical. These tips are written for NZ timbers. Osmo can labels are not written specifically for NZ timbers, but are generic for the 65 countries Osmo products are sold in.

1. Osmo products are not paints. They are an oil and wax emulsion, and must be applied thinly and evenly to get the correct finish.
2. **Do not** over sand your timber. Osmo products such as Polyx Oil, Polyx Oil Tints, Top Oil and Woodwax colours have a thick consistency, and if you sand the timber too fine, it will close the grain, and stop the oil from penetrating. The result of this will be too much oil on the surface, which will extend the drying time, and may 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 and Macrocarpa should be sanded to 120 grit maximum. On softwoods such as pine, cedar and kauri, the timber can be sanded to 150 grit. Steel wool can be used with Osmo products, but care should be taken as it may leave fine dust in the timber's grain. This dust may discolour as rust spots over time.
3. **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 a patchy appearance, 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. (When applying by lint free cloth, up to 6 coats may be required to achieve the same finish).
4. In summer, when using an Osmo exterior product such as UV Protection Oil or Decking Oil, be sure to apply early morning or late afternoon. **Do not** apply the oil during the heat of the day in direct sun, as this may result in the oil being “cooked”.
5. Use the right equipment for preparation and application – Application can be by brush, roller, lint free cloth or the Osmo hand pad with applicator fleece. 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 synthetic speed brushes as they hold too much oil, and over application will occur. For furniture, apply using a good quality bristle brush, microfibre roller, a lint free cloth such as the Osmo Easy Pad or the Osmo hand pad and applicator fleece.
6. 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. 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 sandpaper is not recommended as it can “burn” the surface of the timber closing the pores even more and preventing the correct penetration of oil.
7. The treatment of oily and resinous timbers such as matai, heart rimu, totara, kwila and spotted gum requires a different finishing system. Please refer to the specific information sheet from Osmo's website or your local Osmo stockist.
8. 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 Oil.
9. Osmo products dry by air exchange (air movement). A house which is shut up 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 to gently move the air around. This should be placed off the floor on a bench top or shelf, with the fan pointed towards the ceiling on low speed on a cool setting.

10. Sanding between coats is a personal choice and depends on the finish you want. If the surface needs de-nibbing between coats, a single, light pass using 400 grit sandpaper is all that is required.
11. In cold weather (below about 8 degrees C) Polyx Oil will start to thicken in the can. The colder it gets, the thicker the oil will become. We recommend bringing your can of oil into a warm place about 48 hours before it is to be used. That should ensure it will be at the correct consistency.
12. Polyx Rapid (3232 Satin and 3262 Matt) has been developed for use in colder weather. If your oil has thickened to the extent it cannot be used, we recommend using Rapid for any clear finish.
13. 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.
14. A tip for storing cans which have been used is to cut a piece of food wrap slightly larger than the lid size and push it down onto the top of the oil before replacing the lid. This will remove the air and ensure a crust will not form on the oil, thus extending the shelf life of the remaining contents.
15. Once applied, Osmo Polyx Oil will take approximately 21 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 finished surface 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. Do not drag furniture over the floor – lift into position and put felt or similar under the contact points. If possible, keep dogs and cats off the floor as much as possible during the curing process. Their claws may damage the uncured surface.
16. 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. If you do wear socks on the newly finished floor, take care as it can be very slippery.
17. Do not leave metal cans such as baked bean cans, pet food cans or metal lids etc on any oiled surface. Place a coaster under the metal. There is a chemical reaction between the type of metal used and the oil, which may result in a permanent black ring – either in the oiled finish or in the timber if insufficient oil has been applied. This is a well-known problem and is applicable to any oil, including Tung oil, Linseed oil or Danish oil etc – whatever the brand.

This information is given in good faith, and to the best of our knowledge, but without liability. on the part of the writer, Natural Oils Ltd, Osmo NZ Ltd or Osmo Holz und Color GmbH & Co KG.

The information given is based on actual experience, laboratory testing, and product information sheets supplied by Osmo Holz und Color GmbH & Co KG.