

Outdoor Clear Finishes Comparison Chart

Product	Type	Cost	Application	Rec'd coats	Water Resistance (Moisture/Vapor)	UV Resistance	Mildew resistance	Film-Building	Cleanup	Drying time (hours)	Notes
Tung Oil	Oil	\$20.99/qt.	Rag, brush	5	Y/N	N	N	N	Mineral spirits	24	Wipe off excess or finish will be gummy.
Odie's Oxi Oil	Oil	\$27.99/9 oz.	Rag, brush	1-2	Y/N	Y	N	N	Mineral spirits or D-Limonene	72	Wax provides additional moisture resistance.
General Finishes Outdoor Oil	Oil/Var-nish	\$17/qt.	Rag, brush	2	Y/N	Y	Y	N	Mineral spirits	10	Darkens slightly over time.
Watco Teak Oil	Oil/Var-nish	\$18/qt.	Rag, brush	2	Y/N	Y	Y	N	Mineral spirits	10	Recommended for hardwoods (mahogany, teak, ipe).
Watco Exterior Wood	Oil/Var-nish	\$16/qt.	Rag, brush	2	Y/N	Y	Y	N	Mineral spirits	10	Recommended for softwoods. Slight yellow tint.
Tru-Oil	Polymerized Oil	\$17/8 oz.	Rag, spray (aerosol can)	5	Y/Y	N	Y	Y	Mineral spirits	24	Apply in thin layers to avoid cracks. Does not yellow with age.
System 3 Spar	Oil	\$40/qt.	Brush	9-12	Y/Y	Y	N	Y	Mineral spirits	24-48	Can be applied over epoxy. Darkens over time.
Varathane Spar	Oil	\$19/qt.	Brush	3	Y/N	Y	N	Y	Mineral spirits	72	Darkens over time.
Behlen's WW Restoration Varnish	Oil	\$23/qt.	Brush	3	Y/N	Y	N	Y	Mineral Spirits	24-48	Nearly colorless. Darkens less than other oils.
Waterlox (Sealer and Marine Finish)	Oil	\$32/qt. \$43/qt.	Brush, rag	3 1 sealer/ 2 top	Y/Y	Y	N	Y	Mineral spirits	72-96	Sanding not required for adhesion of next coat. Darkens over time.
Varathane	Acrylic	\$16/qt.	Brush, roller, sprayer	4	Y/Y	Y	N	Y	Soap and water	24	Can be sanded in 2 hours.
GF Exterior 450	Acrylic	\$23/qt.	Brush, roller, sprayer	3	Y/Y	Y	Y	Y	Soap and water	24	Can be sanded in 2 hours. Works as topcoat on GF paints. Not recommended for ipe or teak.
OneTime	Acrylate Resin	\$35/qt.	Brush, roller, sprayer	1	Y/N	Y	N	N	Mineral spirits or Simple Green	24-48	100% solid; requires UV to cure. No surface film.
Woodlife Wood Preservative	Acrylic	\$12/qt.	Brush, roller, sprayer, dip	3	Y/Y	N	Y	Y	Soap and water	24	Sealer and primer. Above-ground use only. EPA registered mildewcide.