

Topcoats & What To Use Them On

Polyurethane

What It is:
Oil-based protective topcoat. Tends to yellow over time, but very durable.

Use On:

- Stained Wood
- Can be used on painted pieces, but not recommended due to potential yellowing over time.

Finishing Wax

What It Is:
Wax protective topcoat that gives a low luster and some protection to pieces. It is less durable than a polyurethane and polycrylic.

Use On:

- Things that don't get a lot of use.
- Things you prefer to have a low sheen.

Polycrylic

What It Is:
Water-based protective topcoat. Less durable than polyurethane, but doesn't yellow over time.

Use On:

- Painted Pieces
- Stained Pieces

Clear Topcoat Spray Paint

What It Is:
Clear topcoat in spray paint form that gives durable protection but is easy to streak.

Use On:

- Spray painted pieces that you want to give extra protection
- Spray painted pieces that you want to give an extra glossy look to.

No Topcoat Needed

Topcoats may not be needed when:

- Pieces have been painted in a gloss or semi-gloss sheen. These tend to easily wipe clean.
- Spray painted pieces.
- Accent tables and/or chairs that don't get a lot of use.