

Redwood

Interior Finishes

Classic natural redwood offers a wide range of colors, textures and patterns to give richness to interiors in an almost endless variety of ways.

Any one of a wide spectrum of color effects can be achieved with the many finishes adaptable to redwood. Additional appearance options include saw-textured or smooth surfaced boards, flat or vertical grain patterns, and cinnamon-colored all heartwood or heartwood with steaks of cream-colored sapwood. Various milled patterns offer still greater

opportunities for distinctive, satisfying design results.

Saw-textured redwood paneling and trim is becoming more popular as it holds finishes better and provides more uniform color.

Redwood can be left unfinished on interiors, but in most cases, a finish will enhance the visual appeal of all types of redwood and help protect the wood's surface from damage.

Interior finishes should be determined first by where and how the redwood is

used, and second by the desired visual effect. Redwood's remarkable finish retention ensures lasting performance of any of a wide range of finish choices.

Interior finishes for redwood fall into two categories: clear finishes which allow the natural grain and texture of the wood to show, and lightly-pigmented color stains, which can create special harmonies or contrasts with other decorative interior elements. Consult the chart on the inside for details on finishes and where and how to use them on redwood.



Interior Finishing Rules

The following rules will facilitate application and help assure best finish performance.

- Interior wood should be clean and dry.
- Follow finish manufacturer's application instructions.
- Do not mix incompatible finishes.
- Work in a well-ventilated room.
- If you are not familiar with a finish, try it out first on a separate piece of wood.

Preparation

For new redwood paneling (smooth surface only), sand lightly before finishing to remove dirt, hammer marks or other blemishes. Remove grease spots with a solvent such as mineral spirits or turpentine prior to sanding.

If nails are countersunk, nail holes can be filled with putty (if a paint or heavy-bodied stain is to be used), or with a non-oily filler (if a natural or light stain finish is planned). Wood fillers are available in a variety of tones, and fillers can be tinted with pigments to match the color of the wood. A natural looking filler can be made by mixing sanding dust from the wood with a clear household cement. Mix a small quantity at a time since the mixture dries quickly. After filling, sand flat and dust the surface before finishing.

Removing Spots and Stains

For removing extremely stubborn spots and stains, a solution of oxalic acid may be the answer. In a glass or plastic container, dissolve one ounce of oxalic acid crystals in one quart of alcohol. Swab the wood with a cloth or soft brush, covering an entire wall to prevent any contrast between treated and untreated areas. When dry, rinse the wood with alcohol to remove the acid. More than one application may be necessary. *Caution: Oxalic acid is toxic. CRA recommends that a professional painter do this work. If you do it yourself, wear rubber gloves and avoid any contact of the solution with skin or eyes. Wear old clothes and wash containers, cloths and brushes thoroughly when through.*

Removing a Finish

Paint Remove paint, varnish or lacquer with a paint-and-varnish remover. Swab the wood with turpentine or mineral spirits to remove any residue deposited by the paint remover.

Waxes Scrub with mineral spirits and a soft brush.

After removing any finish from smooth surfaced lumber, sand before refinishing.

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	Description	Uses	Effect	Application	Maintenance
	Unfinished Unfinished redwood is suitable for areas requiring minimum cleaning such as ceilings. Wood may darken with time.	Light traffic areas, ceilings, walls, panels and trim not cleaned often. Do not use in kitchens, bathrooms or other areas exposed to moisture and grease.	Completely natural appearance. Wood may darken with time.		A finish may be applied at a later time if required.
	Wax Natural appearance finish which highlights redwood's beauty.	All interiors uses except kitchens and bathrooms.	Adds soft luster to redwood and touch-up smooth, easy and even. Applying wax over two coats of clear lacquer makes it easier to remove or paint over.	Apply with a soft cloth, rubbing with wood grain. On saw-textured surface, apply with stiff brush.	Wash with mild detergent, rinse with damp cloth. Remove grime with nonmetallic scouring pad. Restore appearance with new coat of wax; wipe off excess.
	Alkyd Resin Sealers & Danish Oil Moderately durable finish with natural appearance.	All interior uses except bathrooms. Good for use on saw-textured surfaces.	These clear, flat penetrating sealers will darken redwood appreciably.	Two coats, brushed on.	Clean with damp cloth.
	Clear lacquer Film-forming finish for areas requiring minimum maintenance.	Ceilings, walls, dividers, trim, anywhere that needs only dry cleaning; not bathrooms, kitchens or other areas requiring scrubbing.	Natural appearance with some protection from dirt. Although it forms a film, clear lacquer isn't glossy unless many coats are applied. Will darken wood slightly.	Apply by spraying (beware of open flames), or brush on. Coat or two of wax over lacquer gives rich luster. Buff with soft cloth.	Clean with soft cloth dampened with turpentine, mineral spirits, or water. See maintenance suggestion under "Wax" for lacquer finishes topped with wax.
	Alkyd Resin & Polyurethane Varnishes Clear protective finishes ideal for areas requiring scrubbing and heavy cleaning.	All interior uses on surfaced redwood. Multiple coats good for kitchens and bathrooms.	Provides flat, semi-gloss or glossy textures. Varnishes seal better than lacquers and withstand hard scrubbing. They darken and deepen woodtones and may show scratches.	Brush on two coats for most uses, up to six coats for kitchens and bathrooms. Let dry and sand lightly between coats.	Clean with soapy water and soft cloth. Or use turpentine or mineral spirits. Touch up scratches or nicks with tinted wax.
	Pigmented Finishes Semitransparent or solid body stains or paints available in a variety of colors.	Any interior use. Protect stains from liquids, soiling or frequent cleaning by covering with a clear finish or satin sealer (see "Stain and Clear Combinations").	Available in many colors. Stains may be preferred to paints because they only partially obscure redwood grain and texture.	Brush, roll or spray. More coats mean deeper color effect. To emphasize grain or texture, apply one coat stain, wipe surface before dry. Use oil-based primers when painting new redwood.	Easy maintenance. Avoid heavy scrubbing that may smudge wood.
	Stain and Clear Combinations Color stain is applied first, then a protective clear overcoat is applied.	Same as "Pigmented Stains."	Stain provides color tone desired. Overcoats provide protection.	Same as "Pigmented Stains." Protect from grease, dirt, liquids with one coat of wax, lacquer or varnish.	Follow maintenance instruction for whatever finish is used as the overcoat.



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