



# Tung Oil Application Guide

Here's a short, step-by-step guide for a successful Tung Oil wood finish. These fundamentals are keys to a great result.

If you want more in-depth knowledge and pro-tips, visit our comprehensive guide:

<https://sloewood.com/the-complete-guide-to-tung-oil-wood-finish/>

---

## What you need

Sand-paper

One of these: brush, sponge brush or lint-free rag

You'll need some lint-free rag for buffing

## Prepare the Wood

Use **bare, clean wood**. It can also be applied to dyed or stained wood without any top-coat. Wood must be porous without any barriers for absorbing new oil.

Thoroughly remove any grease or wax if needed.

Lightly sand (120–220 grit) and **remove all dust** so the dust residue doesn't mix with the oil.

## Thinning the Oil (Optional)

Pure tung oil works fine **neat** for many applications.

If you need deeper penetration (for example, for hard wood furniture), you can mix your oil with a solvent.

A rough guide for mixing is:

**50–70% thinner for the first coat**, then reduce the thinner gradually with the following coats.

The last coat is normally without any thinner.

# Applying Tung Oil

Apply a thin coat with a brush, **sponge, or lint-free rag**. Don't apply too much oil to create a puddle.

Let oil **soak for ~30 minutes**, then wipe off excess with a lint-free rag.

Recoat after **24–48 hours** (or when the previous coat is absorbed).  
Repeat until wood **cannot absorb more oil** (usually 2–6 coats).

## A key to success

Multiple thin coats

Buffing the surface well to ensure no oil sits on top.

If you see any oil rising to the surface, buff it well to remove it.

Work in a warm, dry environment.

# Curing

Light handling: after the surface is **touch-dry (~24–48 hours)**.

Full cure: **3–4 weeks** (longer in cool/humid conditions).

For **food-contact surfaces**, wait until fully cured before washing or use.

# Maintenance

Clean with **mild soapy water**.

Reapply oil if the surface wears over time. (Mix with 2 parts solvent this time)

Optional: regularly apply **wax over fully cured oil** for extra protection of the surface

# Safety & Storage

**Rags soaked in oil can self-ignite**. Hang flat to dry or submerge in water before disposal.

Store oil in a **cool, dark place**.