General guidelines for applying Osmo products to oily and resinous timbers

Oily and resinous timbers can experience drying issues if finished with standard Osmo products such as Polyx®-Oil. In some timber species, oils and resins occur naturally. They are the tree's defence against rot, insect and fungal attack. These timbers include:

- Matai
- Heart rimu
- Totara
- Kwila
- Spotted gum

These timbers are found throughout New Zealand. Other similar timbers include Walnut, Iroko, Wenge, Ipe, Jatoba and Mahogany, but are less common in this country.

Timbers such as Oak, Kauri, Marcrocarpa, Tawa, Pine, Spruce, Plywood and Jarrah etc contain little or no resin, and can be finished with standard Osmo products.

Before finishing oily and resinous timbers with an Osmo product, we recommend doing a trial on several random boards first, to establish drying times. Random boards because some of **your** floorboards may have come from different trees and will react differently to the oil. In some cases, there may be very little – if any – oil or resin in your floorboards – in others the boards may contain a lot. If the trial applications remain sticky and haven't dried within 3-4 days, then the use of standard Polyx®-Oil is not recommended.

- Osmo Germany recommends the use of Polyx®-Oil Express to finish these timbers. Polyx®-Oil Express is a clear, 2-component product available in a satin or matt finish. It is for professional flooring contactors only. The finish will chemically harden in 3-4 hours.
- If you are looking to stain your timber, the only Osmo product recommended is Osmo Oil Stain with added hardener. It is a 2-component product designed to be used with Polyx®-Oil Express. It is for professional flooring contractors only.

When dealing with these timbers, we recommend employing a professional flooring contractor. However, there should be no major issues for competent DIY people who prefer to finish the floor themselves, if the general advice below is followed:

- When preparing the floor, do not over sand the timber. The recommended grit to finish is 100-120. Any finer will close the timber's grain and prevent the oil from penetrating. This will add to any drying issues. Sanding is critical. A bad sand will be highly visible once the oil has been applied.
- We recommend using a solvent such as turps or Osmo's Brush Cleaner and Thinner to degrease the surface before applying the first coat of Osmo. This will raise the grain slightly enabling better penetration of the oil.
- Once the solvent has dried, apply one **very thin** coat of Osmo Woodwax Clear Extra Thin (code 1101) as a primer. This product will drive away any oil/resin from the timber's surface, and allow penetration of the topcoats.

- Do not apply any topcoat until the Extra Thin primer coat has dried.
- We recommend using two very thin coats of Polyx®-Oil Rapid (codes 3232 for satin and 3262 for matt) as the topcoat. This is a slightly thinner version of normal Polyx®-Oil and should dry faster. The finish is the same as normal Polyx®-Oil.
- There is no need to sand between coats. However, if you wish to de-nib the surface then the finish must be completely dry first. Use a slow speed buffing machine with a pad in a light pass over the floor. Do not use a heavy, fast machine such as a Polivac as this can pull the oil out of the timber before it has fully cured.
- Once dry, apply a second **very thin** coat of Polyx®-Oil Rapid as above. Do not apply the second coat until the first coat has completely dried.
- Application of more than 2 coats is not recommended.

Osmo products need to be applied as thin as possible. Over application and/or over sanding will mean the surface will remain sticky and will scratch and watermark.

Application can be by Osmo floor brush with system handle, or Osmo microfibre roller with system handle. If using another brand of roller, it must be microfibre with a nap of 3-5mm maximum. Anything thicker will hold too much oil and over application will result.

Osmo products dry by oxidation or air movement. It will take longer for the finish to dry if the house is closed up. We recommend – where possible – having windows open during the day to allow air to move around. If not, a small fan placed on a benchtop or shelf and pointed to the ceiling on low speed will move air around and will assist drying. Do not use air conditioning or heat pumps for air movement.

Once the floor has been finished, it may still take 1-3 days to dry completely, and we recommend keeping off the floor during this time. You may also note that some parts of the floor are dry, and others still tacky. This relates to the oil and resin content of **your** timber.

It will take 21 days for the finish to fully cure, so please treat the floor with respect during the curing process. Do not place rugs or mats on the finished surface during this time. If furniture has to be placed on the surface, please lift into position and place felt or a similar product under the contact points. Do not drag furniture across the floor.

“How To” videos and information sheets on all Osmo products including aftercare products are available to view or download from our website: www.naturaloils.co.nz

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