

# Instructions General Finishes Glaze Effects

## Step 1: Preparation

If General Finishes Glaze Effects are applied over a fresh coat of product, such as [General Finishes High Performance Topcoat](#), sanding is optional.

If Glaze Effects are applied directly over an older existing finish, prep cleaning and sanding are required to remove dirt, grime, and potential contaminants.

## Step 2: How to Apply General Finishes Glaze Effects

### General Finishes Glaze Effects Application Steps

For more control of depth and placement of glaze color, apply Glaze Effects over 1 coat [General Finishes High Performance Topcoat](#), any sheen.

1. Stir Glaze Effects to reincorporate solids that have settled to the bottom of the can before and throughout the application process.
2. Thin as desired with distilled water; start with 5%, increase up to 10% by volume.
3. Increase open time, if needed, with up to 5% [General Finishes Extender](#) if allowed by local regulations. GF Extender will improve flow and leveling and increase open time, which is helpful in dry climates. **California Residents:** Adding more than 2% of GF Extender will make the product non-compliant per SCAQMD Regulations. GF assumes no liability for the improper use of these products.
4. If a lighter color is desired, dilute with [General Finishes Glaze Effects Clear Base](#).
5. Apply 1+ coats:
  - **Hand application:** Apply using a synthetic bristle brush, foam brush, paint pad applicator or roller. Wipe away excess Glaze Effects with an absorbent paper or shop towel.
  - **Spray application:** Spray wet films at 3-5-mil thickness. HVLP: 1.3mm-2.0mm spray tip, medium air cap. Check with equipment supplier for proper tip sizes. [See our general guide for spray tip sizes](#). Wear NIOSH-approved respiratory & eye protection. [Read here for more information on spraying techniques](#).
6. **Dry 3+ hours** between coats and before topcoat in ideal conditions: 70°F/20°C; 50-70% humidity. **Be sure to allow adequate dry time.** You can tell if a water-based finish is dry if it forms a powder when lightly sanded with a fine-grade (220-320) foam sanding pad. If in doubt, wait longer. Rushing dry time can cause clouding/blush in topcoat due to moisture trapped between coats. **Increase dry time if:**
  - Humidity is over 80%
  - A thick coat is applied
  - 3+ coats are applied (not recommended)
  - Applying over an existing sealed finish
  - Applying over products from other brands
  - Layering General Finishes water- and oil-based products:
    - Water over oil: Let oil-based products dry 72+hr before applying water-based products
    - Oil over water: Let water-based products dry 24+hr before applying oil-based products
7. If a smoother texture is desired, carefully finish sand between coats with a fine-grade (220-320) foam sanding pad to improve smoothness and adhesion.

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8. Remove dust with a vacuum, compressed air, an oil-free tack cloth or a water-dampened rag.
9. Always seal Glaze Effects with 2-3 coats of topcoat to seal in the colorants.

### Cure Time

Water-based finishes cure and harden for full use after 21 days in ideal conditions. Avoid placing heavy objects on surfaces that have not completely cured. Treat gently, and do not clean with commercial products during the curing period.

**Warning:** Do not use water-based products with Linseed Oils or Danish Oils.

## Step 3: Topcoat over Glaze Effects

ALWAYS seal General Finishes Glaze Effects with 3 coats of clear topcoat, e.g. [General Finishes High Performance Topcoat](#). Apply a total of 3+ coats of topcoat altogether. If 1 coat of topcoat is applied before Glaze Effects, add at least 2 more coats over the glaze to seal in the color.

### Topcoat Recommendations

- Low- to High-Wear Surfaces: High Performance Topcoat (brush or spray), [General Finishes Enduro Clear Poly](#) (spray only)
- Low- to Medium-Wear Surfaces: [General Finishes Flat Out Flat Topcoat](#) (brush or spray)

## Cleanup of Water Based Products

Application tools and materials containing water-based products can be cleaned with soap and water immediately after use.

### Product Spills

Spills may be able to be removed from fabric and carpet if cleaned immediately with soap and water.

## Storage of Water Based Products

*Please be mindful of the way water-based products are stored and how long they have been in storage. They are not a forever product.*

### Life of Product

Water-based products do not last forever, even when unopened. General Finishes products are **best used within 1 year**. However, the life of the product may be extended several more years with proper care and storage (see Storage Tips below).

Water-based products **can last 3-5 years** if the can is unopened, in good condition and stored in correct temperatures.

Product that is 3 years old will not look like product that is 6 months to 1 year old. You will see more stratification or separation as the product ages. Always stir thoroughly before using.

### Foul Smell

If your product has a foul smell, it is contaminated and no longer in useable condition.

### Clumps & Settling

Gravity can cause some solids to settle on the bottom of the can and slight separation on the top. This is normal. If working with older product stir with a paint mixing attachment on a drill.

If the solids dissolve and clumps smooth out after mixing from the bottom, the product is in good condition for use.

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Inability to reincorporate large, chunky lumps after stirring for several minutes is an indication that the product has frozen and can no longer be used.

### Storage Tips

See video tutorial: [Tips on Storing Leftover Finishes](#)

Water-based finishes crystalize and form a skin due to evaporation when the air-tight seal on a can is broken at first use. The following best practices will increase the life of your product:

1. Pry open sealed lids with a paint can opener by hooking under the lid's rolled edge. The use of a screwdriver can disfigure the rim and lid, impairing a complete seal.
2. Keep lid closed while working. Pour what you will use into a bowl, paper cup, or plate, and close can lid as you work.
3. Clean the chime of the can thoroughly with a paper towel before closing to create a complete seal. Product falling into the chime can be minimized by using a pouring lid, such as Fitsall. Avoid wiping used brushes on the lid.
4. Pound the lid in place using a rubber mallet to avoid distorting the chime or lid. Dents in the lid from direct contact with a hammer can impair a complete seal. Alternatively, place a flat piece of wood over can lid and firmly pound shut.
5. Store in moderate temperatures. Avoid temperatures below 50°F/10°C or above 100°F/26°C. Keep from freezing. Frozen and heat-damaged product cannot be revitalized. Temperature-controlled spaces, such as a basement, are ideal for storage. Do not store product in an attic, garage, in direct sunlight, or next to something warm like a water heater or furnace.
6. Store can upside down to create a liquid seal, minimize evaporation and reduce the chance of crystallization. Decant remaining product from the can before stirring.
7. Decant leftovers to a smaller container when the finish is almost used up. Alternative storage containers for water-based products are plastic FIFO bottles or glass bottles. Do not fill metal-lidded containers completely to prevent them from rusting.

### The following water-based product mixtures can be stored:

1. Product thinned with up to 15% [General Finishes Extender](#) or [General Finishes Accelerator](#) can be stored, with the exception of thinned [General Finishes Water Based Wood Stain](#).
2. Mixtures involving colors & sheens within the same product line, such as:
  - High Performance Satin + High Performance Gloss
  - Snow White Milk Paint + Coastal Blue Milk Paint
  - Amber Dye Stain + Merlot Dye Stain

### The following product mixtures should NOT be stored:

- Any water based product with thinned tap water; water often contains bacteria that will adversely affect stored paint.
- Topcoat + Stain or Paint
- Milk Paint + Chalk Style Paint
- Water Based Wood Stain + Dye Stain

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### Creative Techniques Using Glaze Effects

#### Creating Custom Colors

You can design your own custom glazes, stains, washes, and varnishes with General Finishes intermixable water-based products. See tips and recipes below:

For the mixes listed below, General Finishes recommends the following two steps:

1. Applying a base layer of **General Finishes [High Performance Topcoat](#)** before applying your custom glaze.
2. Protect all these finishes with 2-3 coats of topcoat when you are finished.

#### Pastel Glaze/Whitewash:

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- **General Finishes [Milk Paint](#)**: Your choice of colors
- **General Finishes Glaze Effects: Winter White** OR **General Finishes [Water Based Wood Stain: Whitewash](#)**

Do not add more than 50% paint to the glaze or stain, or else there will be so much pigment it will be difficult to wipe away the finish.

#### Custom Glaze:

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- General Finishes Glaze Effects: Your choice of colors

SAMPLE MIX:

Pitch Black Glaze Effects + Winter White Glaze Effects.

Experiment with proportions and colors.

#### Custom Stain Colors:

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- General Finishes Milk Paint: Your choice of color
- General Finishes Glaze Effects: Clear Base OR **General Finishes [Pre-Stain Conditioner Natural](#)**

SAMPLE MIXES:

1. 1 part Milk Paint + 1 part Pre-Stain Natural [50:50 mix] OR
2. 1 part Milk Paint + 1 part Glaze Effects Clear Base [50:50 mix] OR
3. 1 part Milk Paint + 2 parts Water Based Wood Stain Natural [1:2 mix]

Proportions are relative to the color you are reducing. Some colors may require 2 parts Clear Base to reduce strength, others may require 1.

Begin with a 50:50 mix and add more Clear Base as needed.

Increase your color palette by mixing 2 or 3 Milk Paint colors together before adding the Clear Base.

[Milk Paint & Glaze Effects Samples](#)

## Furniture Care and Maintenance

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### Cure First

You have just finished applying a fine furniture finish. Treat gently until the paint or topcoat have fully cured. Allow 21 days for a water-based finish to cure and 30 days for an oil-based finish to cure before cleaning.

### Regular Cleaning and Maintenance

- Remove dust with a water-dampened cloth. Dust can build up over time and may scratch or dull finishes if not removed regularly.
- Remove fingerprints, cooking fumes and smoking residue with mild soap and water. These contaminants will not harm the finish, but they accumulate on surfaces and dull the original luster.
- As with all fine furniture finishes, avoid using furniture polish, cleaners or dusting sprays that contain silicone, alcohol, ammonia, and anything acidic. Exception: We have successfully cleaned with Clorox wipes for occasional cleanups.
- Clean up water, alcohol and food spills in a timely manner and use placemats & coasters to protect the finish.
- Future finishes or touch-ups may not adhere properly or perform as desired over a contaminated surface. Some contaminants, such as silicone, seep through finish into the wood and often cannot be removed.
- Avoid excessive exposure to direct sunlight, high temperatures or high humidity. These can damage furniture and finishes.

## Warnings and Warranties

### Glaze Effects Warnings and Warranties

#### Compatibility

Do not use water-based products with Linseed Oils or Danish Oils.

#### Limited Warranty

General Finishes products must be tested to your complete satisfaction before using. General Finishes will not be responsible for color satisfaction, misapplication, nor compatibility with other manufacturer's products. General Finishes will be responsible only for the cost of our products, and not for costs such as labor, damage, or project replacement.

#### Contamination and Compatibility

Our finishes are engineered as a system and are compatible with each other. General Finishes cannot guarantee an ideal refinish when applying our products on top of or combined with another company's products or over surfaces that have been in contact with waxes, polishes or sprays containing contaminants such as silicone. Test for adherence and aesthetics before beginning.

**FIRST AID:** Seek immediate medical attention if symptoms occur due to the following. **EYE CONTACT:** Remove any contact lenses. Flush eyes with water for 20+ minutes while lifting upper and lower eyelids. **SKIN CONTACT:** Wash thoroughly after handling. **INHALATION:** Move to fresh air and loosen clothing. If not breathing, if breathing is irregular or if respiratory arrest occurs, provide artificial respiration or oxygen by trained personnel. **INGESTION:** Call physician immediately. Wash out mouth with water. Do not induce vomiting unless directed to do so by medical personnel. Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person.

#### Prop 65 WARNING:

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- **Burnt Umber:**  
This product can expose you to Ethylene oxide, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. This product can expose you to chemicals including 1,4-Dioxane, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer, and Ethanediol, which is known to the State of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to [California Proposition-65](#).
- **Pitch Black:**  
This product can expose you to Ethylene oxide, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. This product can expose you to chemicals including 1,4-Dioxane, Carbon black, respirable powder, which are known to the State of California to cause cancer, and Ethanediol, which is known to the State of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to [California Proposition-65](#).
- **Van Dyke Brown:**  
This product can expose you to Ethylene oxide, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. This product can expose you to chemicals including 1,4-Dioxane, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer, and Ethanediol, which is known to the State of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to [California Proposition-65](#).
- **Winter White:**  
This product can expose you to Ethylene oxide, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. This product can expose you to chemicals including 1,4-Dioxane, Titanium dioxide, which are known to the State of California to cause cancer, and Ethanediol, which is known to the State of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to [California Proposition-65](#).

**CAUTION: MAY CAUSE EYE IRRITATION.**

Keep out of reach of children. Avoid contact with eyes. Keep container tightly closed when not in use. Wash thoroughly after handling.