

Protecting live edge timber is essential to maintain its beauty and durability. We know from years of experience that correctly sanding, sealing, and oiling your wood correctly is key to longevity. Before applying your wood finish, we recommend that you correctly prepare your wood. We have a guide focused on this topic, see Guide 02 – Preparing Wood.

### Wood Protection

When choosing a finish to seal live edge wood, you should consider the level of protection needed, desired appearance, ease of application and maintenance requirements.

Here is our guide on how to protect live edge timber:

- Choose a suitable finish to seal the wood and protect it from moisture, dirt, and UV damage. Apply multiple coats for better protection, following the manufacturer's instructions for drying times and application methods.
- Consider using a wood sealant or sealer specifically designed to penetrate the wood fibres and provide long-lasting protection. Sealants can help prevent moisture absorption and reduce the risk of warping or cracking.
- If your live edge timber has cracks, voids, or knots, consider filling them with epoxy resin.
- Use a brush, rag, or spray gun to apply the chosen finish evenly across the wood surface.
- For a smoother finish, lightly sand the wood with 240-grit sandpaper between each application of finish.
- Apply additional coats as needed, following the same process of stirring, applying and drying time.
- Inspect the finished wood for any touch-ups or areas that may need additional attention.



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### Wood protectors

There are many finishes that are suitable for sealing live edge wood, each offering different properties and advantages. Ideally you want a finish that will provide long-lasting protection and enhance the beauty of the wood.

Our preferred finish is Osmo Polyx-Oil, a wood finish that is versatile, durable and easy-to-apply. Polyx-Oil is a hardwax-oil blend that is formulated using a combination of natural oils and waxes, including sunflower oil, soybean oil and carnauba wax. This combination penetrates deep into the wood fibres, providing long-lasting protection. It can be used for both interior and exterior applications.

Other available finishes include:

- **Epoxy Resin:** A two-part compound that cures to a hard, clear finish when mixed and applied to wood surfaces. It provides excellent moisture resistance, durability, and a high-gloss finish. Epoxy resin is often used for filling voids, cracks, and knots in wood, as well as creating decorative coatings on tabletops and countertops.
- **Lacquer:** A fast-drying finish that creates a clear, durable coating on wood surfaces. It offers excellent moisture resistance and is available in various sheens, including gloss, satin, and matte. Lacquer is typically applied in multiple thin coats using a spray gun for a smooth, professional finish.
- **Oil Finishes:** Tung oil, linseed oil, and Danish oil, and more penetrate the wood fibres to provide a natural-looking finish that enhances the wood's colour and grain. These finishes offer only moderate protection against moisture and scratches and may require periodic reapplication to maintain the appearance of the wood.
- **Polyurethane:** A durable and versatile finish that provides excellent protection against moisture, scratches, and UV rays. It is available in both oil-based and water-based formulas, with oil-based versions offering a slightly warmer tone and water-based versions drying faster and emitting fewer fumes.
- **Shellac:** A natural resin derived from the secretions of the lac bug. It forms a hard, protective film when dissolved in alcohol and applied to wood. Shellac dries quickly, has good moisture resistance, and can be easily repaired or recoated. It is available in various colours, from clear to amber, and can be buffed to a high shine.
- **Varnish:** Similar to polyurethane but typically has a thicker consistency. It forms a tough, glossy coating that enhances the wood's natural beauty and provides long-lasting protection against wear and tear.
- **Wax:** Wax finishes, such as beeswax or carnauba wax, provide a low-lustre sheen and a smooth, tactile feel to wood surfaces. While wax offers limited protection against moisture and wear, it can be applied over other finishes to enhance the wood's appearance and provide additional protection.



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Once your piece of furniture has been treated, we recommend that you continue to care for it by doing the following:

- Prolonged exposure to direct sunlight can cause live edge timber to fade over time. If possible, position your timber furniture away from windows or use curtains or blinds to reduce sun exposure.
- Fluctuations in humidity can cause wood to expand and contract, leading to warping, splitting, or cracking. If your home is damp, use a dehumidifier to maintain stable humidity levels in your home.
- Protect your live edge timber furniture from water stains, scratches, and heat damage by using coasters and placemats.
- Keep your live edge timber clean and well-maintained by dusting regularly with a soft cloth and mild wood cleaner. Avoid harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners that can damage the finish or wood surface.

By following these tips, you can protect your live edge timber and enjoy its natural beauty for many years.

### Get In Touch

Using our specialist timber knowledge, we can help you with selecting your wood slab and provide advice on how to protect your wood from moisture, dirt, and UV damage.

Whether you are planning on building a staircase or shelving, creating a stunning wooden bar top or a bespoke piece of furniture, visit our online timber shop and be inspired by our extensive range of live edge wood.



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