

Applying a Food-Safe Wood Finish with Oil and Wax

By **Craft Supplies USA** - February 25, 2019

For years now, Mahoney's Utility Finish has been our go-to finish for salad bowls and wooden utensils. Mike Mahoney.

Mike produces hundreds of bowls each year and needed a durable, nice looking, food-safe finish for his customers. Unsatisfied with what was available, he produced his own finish. Once Mahoney's Utility Finish is applied, it's a food-safe finish that won't evaporate and lasts a long time.

Mahoney's finishes are made with pure Walnut oil that is very high in linoleic acid. This particular property of the oil and sets it apart from culinary walnut oils sold at grocery stores.

Prepare the Work

Before applying the finish start by making sure your piece is sanded through at least 400 grit and is clean.

Finish with Utility Finish

Brush or wipe on a liberal coat of Mahoney's oil onto the piece. Let it soak in for about an hour.

Check it every 15 minutes or so and add more oil to any dry spots that may show up.

After it has had an hour to soak, wipe it dry with a clean cloth. Always properly dispose of the rags by discarding them.

Your project is safe to use even before the oil hardens.

Finish with Walnut Oil Wax

You can leave this as a stand-alone finish, but I'll add some walnut oil wax to build the sheen up a bit.

You'll want to give the oil a few days to harden in a room temperature environment before applying the wax. While the piece is wet, you'll just be smearing it around.

Now that this piece has had a few days to dry, I'll rub the wax on with a soft cloth. Let it sit for a few minutes and then buff it with a soft cloth or buffing wheel.



Sand through at least 400 grit and wipe the work clean before finishing



Apply a liberal amount of finish



Wipe or brush the finish on



Cover the entire surface with the oil



Check for dry spots where the finish has soaked



Apply more finish to any dry spots



Always air oily rags out before disposing of them



Let the utility finish dry on the piece before applying Walnut Oil Wax



Rub the wax on with a soft cloth



Bowl finished with Mahoney's Finishes
