

FACT SHEET

FINISHING WOOD FURNITURE

Old furniture can be transformed and renewed, if you follow the following steps:

- Assemble all the necessary tools and materials. (Don't forget brush cleaning solvents, if you choose to use solvent-based paints). Be sure to have plenty of newspapers and rags on hand.
- Remove all hardware or non-fixed ornamentation.
- Read all product labels thoroughly and always follow the directions.
- Work safely. Protect hands with rubber gloves and wear safety goggles when working with caustic products, such as paint removers and bleaches, or when sanding. Always work outside, if possible, or in a well ventilated area, away from sparks and open flames, if you are using solvent-based products.
- Plan your work schedule. Time should be allocated to each stage in the process. These stages should be tackled in the following order:
 - Stripping – remove all old finish from the piece of furniture;
 - Sanding – a smooth surface is necessary for good application;
 - Staining – used to colour the wood to emphasise the grain. This stage may also involve bleaching or filling where necessary;
 - Finishing – added protection for the completed job.
- Dispose of soiled rags and newspapers in covered metal containers, kept outside the house.
- Store all unused material in a safe place.

Restoring old furniture is a rewarding experience as well as sustainable, from an environmental point of view.