



“Only a wood specialist has the necessary knowledge to develop an optimal wood finish.”

The history of OSMO began as a saw mill around 100 years ago. The owners of the company were annoyed with the cracking and peeling of polyurethanes as far back as the 1960’s. It was in the 60’s that colored wood finishes became more and more popular and OSMO began looking for a finish that was particularly adapted to the needs of wood. OSMO, which started with wood as its core business, along with their drive and ambition to create a better finishing system, provided the foundations for extensive research and development thus leading to the establishment of the OSMO Color facility. The unity between wood and color has been a milestone in the entrepreneurial thinking of OSMO. Nowadays OSMO is one of the leading manufacturers and suppliers of high quality interior and exterior wood products. Additionally, OSMO is the only manufacturer that finishes its wood products with its own coatings that are developed and produced in-house.

Not to be confused with traditional oil finishes, OSMO Hardwax Oil is an engineered finish made with plant oils and waxes, plus just enough highly refined mineral spirits to allow easy application.

This remarkable finish offers excellent durability and renewability with a unique lustrous finish. It will never crack, blister or flake off. Instead of forming a plastic film, like polyurethane does, OSMO Hardwax Oil has open pores that "breathe." This allows any moisture that does get through to get back out again without pushing off the finish.

Key ingredients in OSMO Hardwax Oil include sunflower, soybean and thistle oil, plus two hard, natural waxes—carnauba and candelilla. A Brazilian palm tree, *Copernica cerifera*, produces the carnauba in its leaves, berries and stalks. Villagers cut down fronds, dry them for several days, and then beat off the wax. The candelilla comes from the outer coating on a desert shrub, *Euphorbia antisyphiliti*, that grows in northern Mexico. Farmers boil the leaves and stems with water and acid to release the wax.

This is an oil-based product. Like most finishes—even water-based ones—it needs a solvent to perform properly. OSMO uses the safest one that works with oil-based finishes: benzene-free, low-odor mineral spirits. This is an aliphatic petroleum distillate, which means it is a petroleum product that has its carbon atoms arranged in open chains instead of rings. The more toxic aromatic or ring hydrocarbons have been removed, resulting in a milder odor and lower toxicity.

“Osmo is neither a traditional varnish manufacturer nor an eco-manufacturer but keeps the balance between functionality and ecological awareness.”



Top quality product features

Workability and compatibility of the colors are of major importance

- + **No** water as a solvent due to the lack of workability at high temperature (reduced open time) and roughening of the surface.
- + **No** preserving agents, thus no unpleasant smell, high storage stability and low allergy potential.
- + **No** "eco"- solvents such as orange peel oil, as they are very often irritant and allergenic.
- + **No** normal white spirit as a solvent because the aromatic compounds are refined out
- + **With** disaromatized white spirit that makes the color more workable and minimizes health risks.
- + **With** pigments that are registered for the food sector.
- + **With** linseed oil, carnauba wax, candelilla wax, sunflower oil, soybean oil and thistle oil.

Open-cell character (microporous)

- + The binding agents of Osmo finishes are based on natural, vegetable oils that penetrate deeply into the wood and protect it.
- + The binding agent keeps the components of the finish together and guarantees the adhesion with the surface (oils link and net with the wood fibers).
- + Pigments and waxes as a filler are the solids of the Osmo-finishes. They are the structural substance for the binding agent and cure the finish additionally.
- + The oils fill the pores of the wood and protect it from stagnant moisture which would otherwise damage the wood, however, the oil does not form a watertight film.
- + The wood remains open-pored and can still absorb and release moisture. Color "works" with the wood.