

Beeswax is an amazing and versatile product that can be used in many ways. See below for some ideas.

Boots & Shoes - Place in sun and then rub with wax.

Zips - rub wax along zip for the zip to move freely.

Fly Fishing - run line through the wax.

Fine Needle Work - run thread through wax to make cotton stronger.

Wax Wood - for structural elements (such as exposed ceiling beams), heat equal parts beeswax, linseed oil and turpentine. Apply with a rag while the mixture is still warm.

Free Frozen Nuts - help loosen a rusted nut by lubricating the bolts threads with melted wax.

Fixing A Stuck Drawer - a thin coat of beeswax on wood rails makes the wood drawers slide smoothly, also ideal for windows.

Condition A Wood Cutting Board - add a half tea-spoon beeswax to a cup of mineral oil, microwave until the wax melts, and apply the mixture to the board with a soft cloth.



Also good for  
leather, lube screws  
and preserving  
bronze.

# Making beeswax furniture polish

Beeswax has a specific gravity of 0.960-0.972 at 15°C, and a melting point of 62° - 66°C. For its ductility, it has the highest melting point of any wax known. It is a non-crystalline wax, impervious to moisture. It binds well into a solvent and is by far the best wax for forming an emulsion. It gives a soft, satiny sheen to wood.

## Mixing the ingredients

**WARNING** - wax is highly flammable. Do not heat it over a direct flame. Use a couple of old pots or saucepans, one inside the other. Partly fill the larger pot with water and place the smaller pot in this water bath. This prevents the ingredients from overheating. In case of fire, do not try to extinguish it with water. Use sand, a large damp cloth or a fire extinguisher. If the beeswax is not clean then it may be necessary to heat the wax to 70° - 75°C and pass this solution through a fine filter. Coarse filter paper is satisfactory as is a piece of fine cloth. All the ingredients listed should be obtainable from woodcraft suppliers.

## Liquid Beeswax Furniture Polish

Ingredients :            50g pure soap flakes            100g beeswax  
                                 500ml turpentine                    250 ml water

Dissolve the soap in warm water in one pan, put the shaved wax into the turpentine in another pan and warm gently until the wax is thoroughly melted and dissolved. Then pour the soap mixture into the turpentine, stirring with a wooden stick. When dissolved and well mixed, pour into the storage jars. When mixing ingredients ensure they are of the same temperature.

## Cream or Paste Beeswax Furniture Polish

This recipe is simply a mixture of beeswax and a suitable solvent. The less solvent used, the more stiff the mixture. The traditional solvent is pure turpentine and this gives to beeswax polish the scent reminiscent of gleaming old mahogany. The solvent can be replaced by mineral turps or white spirit.

Ingredients :            100g beeswax                            250ml solvent

Heat solvent in a pan and the beeswax in a separate pan to the same temperature. Pour solvent into wax and stir thoroughly. Pour into prepared containers.

## Solid Beeswax Furniture Polish

Use equal parts        beeswax    turpentine                            linseed oil

Heat the beeswax and add warm turpentine and linseed oil. Stir thoroughly. If this mixture is not solid enough, then either decrease the quantity of turpentine or linseed oil or increase the quantity of beeswax.

## CONTAINERS FOR POLISH

Some plastics can be used to contain the various preparations or mould the solid polishes. Open glass jars are suitable for containing the liquids, creams and paste preparations. Avoid tins. With time a tin will corrode and detract from the preparation. Thoroughly wash all containers to be used in very hot water.

## APPLYING POLISH TO WOOD

Lathe application - apply wax in the hard form by wrapping a piece of cloth around it and holding it against the revolving work. Friction will melt the wax and spread it evenly over the surface. Buff lightly with a soft cloth.

Normal application - apply polish in a paste or cream form with a soft cloth. Buff to a high lustre.