



How to Power Prep Existing Finishes On High Use Surfaces for New Stain or Paint

Follow these steps to clean and prep surfaces that have high levels of grime and dirt, have been used heavily in the past, or prior to painting kitchen cabinets.

STEP 1. POWER PREP CLEAN WITH SOAPY WATER

Using soapy water made with a degreasing dish detergent, scrub away heavy, accumulated grease and grime with a green Scotch-Brite pad. Rinse away soapy water completely with clean water and terry cloth.

STEP 2. PREP CLEAN WITH DENATURED ALCOHOL MIX

Scrub the surface again using a green Scotch-Brite pad and a 50/50 mix of denatured alcohol and water. Wipe dry with a clean cloth.

STEP 3. PREP SAND

Prep sand with a 220 sanding **pad** or 400 grit sand**paper**. (There is a difference!) Wipe away all the dust with a damp cloth or towel. This provides an additional surface cleaning and prepares the surface to accept a new finish.

BE CAUTIOUS OF CONTAMINANTS

In addition to built-up dirt, oil and grime, dusting sprays containing silicone (i.e. Swiffer, etc.) will also impact the appearance and adherence of a new finish. Silicone is almost impossible to remove. Oil soaps (like Murphy's) and wax topcoats can also cause adhesion failures. Always test the full process on an inconspicuous area.

OTHER CLEANING INFO:

- You can use vinegar, bleach or ammonia solutions, but GF's experience shows they are usually not aggressive enough for kitchen cabinets. GF does not recommend using ammonia with water-based finishes as it can cause the finish to blush (turn white).
- NEVER USE steel wool with water based products because the particles can become embedded and rust.
- NEVER USE mineral spirits to prep clean before applying water-based finishes. You can correct this problem by cleaning again with a 50/50 mix of denatured alcohol and water. Let your project dry 24 hours before applying water-based products.