

Strong at the finish

When wood cabinets are finished correctly, they become a beautiful, stunning element in your home. It creates a feeling (*so much more than just a look!*) that puts a smile on your face every time you walk into your home.

All cabinet manufacturers have access to the industry's entire line up of finish materials, from good to better to best. At StarMark Cabinetry, we start with the best material.

Then, we choose processes that make the most of these finish materials. Most of these processes involve elbow grease! No cabinet manufacturer puts more manual labor and handwork into each cabinet than StarMark Cabinetry.

Each finish we offer creates a unique furniture look, adding beauty, color, and depth to nature's most versatile material: wood.



Finishes

STAIN

A stain is a basic finish that adds color to wood while revealing the beauty of the grain. The same stain looks different on each specie. StarMark Cabinetry species are Alder, Rustic Alder, Cherry, Rustic Cherry, Hickory, Rustic Hickory, Lyptus, Maple, Oak and Quarter Sawn Oak.

For the richest, most consistent color coverage, we apply the stain and then hand rub it into the wood. There are no machine shortcuts: *elbow grease is the only way to coax the luster from stained wood.*

TINTED VARNISH

The best way to describe Tinted Varnish is to say it gives cabinetry a paint-like finish. Throughout the country, this type of finish is also called “enamel” or “opaque”. We use Tinted Varnish on maple and oak cabinetry, and each specie yields a different look. The grain of maple wood is concealed by Tinted Varnish, while the grain of oak shows through Tinted Varnish.

GLAZE



Glaze adds depth to stain and Tinted Varnish. The profiles on a door, moulding, corbels and other details on cabinetry, such as rosettes, shells or a fleur-de-lis, are stunning when glazed. The best way to glaze? Yes, more handwork. We apply a wet glaze by hand and then wipe it off by hand. This handwork helps the glaze settle into the open grain areas. Also, when a craftsman wipes off the glaze, he or she can best use the glaze to define the details in that particular kitchen.

Other cabinet manufactures are satisfied with shortcuts: using a dry glaze, applying the glaze with a brush, or even faking the look with markers. We take pride in handcrafting every component—door, drawer, moulding, panels—that goes into your kitchen.

We currently have five glazes: Bronze, Chocolate, Ebony, Nickel and Latté.

DISTRESSING

So a stain, a Tinted Varnish and a glaze will put color on your cabinetry. You can go further and add patina to the cabinetry.

For instance, a maple door finished in White Tinted Varnish with Chocolate glaze can receive the Cottage treatment, resulting in worn edges and rounded corners. We also have Amaretto, Bordeaux, Chateaux, Linen, Oatmeal, Villa, Old World Distressing, and à la carte distressing. All characteristics, for example, worm holes, rasping, knife marks, are added by hand. There is no machine and there is no robot that can successfully duplicate what the eyes and hands of an artisan achieve through personal handling of the cabinetry.

The Process

Depending on the finish you choose, your cabinetry may go through 8, 10 or 14 steps in our factory so we can lay down the most beautiful, smooth and durable finish possible. “Baking” a finish is necessary to achieve the most durable finish, so all of our finishes require the cabinetry component to go through our industrial oven at least twice.

More important than the number of steps in our finish process are our employees. We have inspectors at every step, including the final step, to ensure quality. All employees are empowered to pull any component off the line if it does not meet their standards.

Terminology

CATALYZATION

StarMark Cabinetry’s finishes are Catalyzed Conversion Varnishes. When the acidic catalyst is mixed with the sealer or topcoat, it causes them to cure (*dry*). Without a catalyst, the sealer and top coat would be sticky. The oven baked cure gives the finish even more durability.

SEAL SANDING

Seal sanding gives wood a scratch pattern so the top coat will stick to the sealer. It creates a mechanical bond between the sealer and top coat. Sanding also smooths the sealer and knocks down any raised fibers. This helps the top coat lay flat. The end result is the smoothest finish possible. At StarMark Cabinetry, all seal sanding is done by hand. It takes more time, but no other method works as well.

SEALER

Sealer does just that, it seals the wood. When the top coat is applied, it lies on top of the sealer and does not soak into the wood. Without sealer, the top coat would soak into the wood, and the wood would appear dull and feel rough.

TOP COAT

The top coat lies on top of the sealer. It is responsible for giving the cabinets a smooth, even, KCMA-approved durable finish. The top coat for Tinted Varnish is called Enamel. We specifically chose our top coat for its lustrous feel, incredible build depth, and understated, elegant satin sheen.

TONER

The clarity of a stain is enhanced by using a two-step process. The first step is applying a toner, the second step is applying the stain. This combination aids in building the color. This is especially true for darker stains, such as Chestnut and Java, where it is difficult to apply all of the color in just one pass. We build most of our stain colors using the two-step process. The toner application allows the wood fibers to begin to take on color prior to the application of stain, and it helps to neutralize any inconsistencies in the color of the raw wood product.