OSMO Polyx-Oil: Frequently Asked Questions

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Overview

Q: Can I use OSMO Polyx-Oil for other projects besides the floor?
A: Absolutely. OSMO Polyx-Oil is an excellent finish for practically all interior wood applications. It provides excellent protection for unfinished wood paneling, trim, doors, cabinets, window frames, stairs, railings and furniture.

Prep/Set-Up

Q: What tools & supplies might I need for my project?
A: In addition to the **OSMO Professional Scraper** and/ **OSMO Floor Brush, the following** other tools & materials may be helpful for your project:

- **OSMO Brush Cleaner** a low-odor mineral spirits used for cleaning tools.
- **OSMO Easy Clean Wipes** for cleaning Polyx-Oil off of hands.
- **OSMO Opti-Set maintenance kit** for cleaning and maintaining the finished floor.
- **Wooden pole** to fit Floor Brush.
- **Painter's tra**y (with well) to hold product (when using the Floor Brush or Shur-Line Pad).
- **Small containers** to decant product from larger cans.
- **White abrasive pad** (e.g., Scotchbrite) for applying Polyx-Oil in tight corners or on trim.
- **Red or Maroon abrasive pad** (e.g., Scotchbrite) for detailing between coats (optional).
- **Half-face respirator** with organic-vapor cartridges, if desired.
- **Nitrile gloves** (Not latex).
- **Shoe covers** to keep the unfinished floor clean while applying the finish.
- **Fan** for ventilation.
- **Cloth** to wipe up spills.

Q: How do I determine the amount of Polyx-Oil I need to cover a given space?
A: Since 1 liter is approximately 4.25 cups, at the average coverage rate, 1 cup will cover approximately 60 square feet (an 8' x 8' area) in one coat. See table below for other common measures.

For example, if you have a room that is 10' x 12' or 120 square feet, you will need approximately 2 cups to cover that area in one coat:

$$\frac{120\ sf}{room} \times \frac{1\ liter}{250\ sf} \times \frac{4.25\ cups}{1\ liter} = \frac{2.04\ cups}{room}$$

Measured Amount	Approximate Coverage Area
1/4 cup	15 sf
1/3 cup	20 sf
1/2 cup	30 sf
1 cup	60 sf

Application

Q: Is OSMO Polyx-Oil applied like other finishes?
A: OSMO Polyx-Oil is applied differently than most finishes you'll find. This finish can not be simply painted-on, or applied and left to soak in. Instead, Polyx-Oil is rubbed into the wood grain using an abrasive applicator and a fair amount of elbow grease. Polyx-Oil is a fairly simple finish to apply, but can be difficult to fix if applied improperly. If you read and follow our application instructions, you'll end up with an incredibly durable and beautiful floor!

Q: Can OSMO Polyx-Oil be used in conjunction with other oil-based stains?
A: The OSMO Polyx-Oil has been tested to be compatible with other OSMO products like Wood Wax Finish or OSMO Polyx Professional Color Oil. For other stain products, you are looking for a ***non-sealing stain***. In other words, you are looking for a stain that does not contain a sealer. Given this, you will still want to test the stain for compatibility with Polyx-Oil. Test as large a sample as possible to evaluate. Confirm satisfaction before using the finish for the entire project. Keep in mind, though, that staining the wood limits your ability to spot-treat scratches and stains.

Q: What is the coverage rate of OSMO Polyx-Oil?
A: For most wood flooring, OSMO Polyx-Oil covers an average of approximately 250 square feet per liter, per coat. That said, the coverage rate may vary depending on wood species, sanding method, application technique and environmental conditions.

Q: How long does it take for OSMO Polyx-Oil to dry?
A: Ideal conditions for drying finishes include a constant supply of fresh air, temperatures around 65-75º F, and relative humidity below. 50%. Given adequate conditions, a floor finished with Polyx-Oil is safe to re-coat 8-12 hours after the first coat, and is safe to open to light traffic 24 to 48 hours after the second coat. The full curing time for this finish, however, is 2 to 3 weeks. During this time period, the floor must have constant access to fresh air while it cures. Therefore, avoid putting down any area rugs, drop clothes or low-lying furniture until the finish has cured.

Q: Do you have any tips for application of OSMO Polyx-Oil on different types of woods?
A: Most softwoods and hardwoods accept Polyx-Oil readily and without difficulty. Polyx-Oil tends to have a lower coverage rate (more Polyx-Oil per unit area) on soft, open grain woods (such as fir, pine or red oak). In contrast, hard, dense grain woods (such as maple and many tropical hardwoods) tend to result in a higher coverage rate (less Polyx-Oil per unit area). Certain tropical hardwoods are so dense or laden with oils and resins that they may require a solvent scrub and other types of special treatment (thinner coats, more diligent scrubbing) in order to achieve acceptable results. A few extremely dense woods may simply not be compatible with OSMO Polyx-Oil.

Q: How should the floor be sanded and prepared for application of OSMO Polyx-Oil?
A: Proper preparation of the floor is one of the most important factors in a successful OSMO Polyx-Oil application. The final sanding should use no finer than 120 grit sandpaper. Be extra-careful that no marks or gouges are left in the surface of the wood, as the penetrating finish will accentuate these marks. Pay particular attention to the transitions from the drum sander to the edger. Use a vacuum and a tack cloth, alternately, to remove all sawdust or sandpaper grit. Leftover dust or debris will get caught in the finish, causing a rough texture.

Q: Why is oversanding the floor a problem?
A: Oversanding the floor can burnish the surface, making it more difficult for Polyx-Oil to key into the wood grain.

Q: Do I need to sand between coats?
A: Sanding between coats is not necessary, assuming the floor has been properly prepped and the first coat properly applied. However, if there is any question, you can't go wrong by lightly abrading the entire first coat until the surface is evenly dull. A maroon abrasive pad usually works well. Shiny or rough areas may require a more aggressive abrasive (e.g., 120 grit sand paper). Be careful not to sand back down to bear wood.

Maintenance

Q: What do I do with my leftover OSMO Polyx-Oil?
A: Unopened, OSMO Polyx-Oil has a shelf life of approximately 4-5 years. Once the can has been opened, there is a much higher chance that the finish may become contaminated or dried-out. To prevent contamination, we recommend pouring the amount of Polyx-Oil needed into a separate container, rather than dipping your brush or pad into the can. When storing, the less air in the can, the less likely skimming or contamination is to occur. Leftover Polyx-Oil should be transferred to a smaller can or jar, and an oxygen displacer like Bloxygen should be used to remove extra oxygen from the container. If you open the Polyx-Oil at a later date and find that the finish has skimmed-over, remove as much of the "skin" as possible, and stir the finish thoroughly. If you notice a significant discoloration or strong rancid odor, discard the material properly.

Q: How do I repair deep scratches or stains?
A: For areas that have been damaged beyond normal wear, you may need to sand and reapply two coats on OSMO Polyx-Oil. Sand the affected area to remove the scratches or stains. Work your way from coarse to fine grit. Polyx-Oil does not fill holes or scratches in wood. Clean up all sanding dust. For large repair areas, use the OSMO Floor Brush for application (see section on application to floors for instructions). For small repair areas, a white abrasive pad works well (see the section above for application to Trim, Cabinets and Furniture). Repair areas may appear lighter than unsanded areas, but it will "catch up" to the rest of the floor over time.

Troubleshooting

Q: My floor has shiny, cloudy patches OR is easily scratched OR is drying slowly and staying tacky. What is happening?
A: These are all classical symptoms of over-application of the finish. One good test of overapplication is to scratch the surface with your fingernail. If white powder comes off on your fingernail and leaves a scratch in the finish, the finish is over-applied.

It is important to keep in mind that OSMO Polyx-Oil can sometimes look somewhat blotchy after the first coat and on soft woods such as fir and pine. This blotchiness will often fade over time or be resolved by a second coat. If in doubt, complete a test area to your satisfaction before proceeding to the entire floor.

Q: What do I do if I have over-applied the finish?
A: If too much was applied, the excess must be sanded off before proceeding. This does not necessarily mean sanding back to bare wood. A maroon abrasive pad usually works well. Heavy overapplication may require more aggressive sanding (e.g., sanding screen). If there is any question, it is acceptable to lightly abrade the entire first coat until the surface is evenly dull.

Q: My floor looks dry and unfinished OR is water spotting (water leaves light or dark spots in the wood). What is happening?
A: These are all classical symptoms of under-application of the finish. To test, sprinkle a few drops of water on the wood. Water should bead for several hours without penetrating the finish. Please note: since OSMO Polyx-Oil is a micro-porous finish, standing water will eventually penetrate the finish.

Q: What do I do if I have under-applied the finish?
A: If not enough finish is applied or if the wood grain is particularly absorbent, it may be necessary to apply a third, thin coat. If in doubt, complete a test area to your satisfaction before proceeding to the entire floor.

Q: My floor looks grainy and rough. What might be causing this?
A: This is typically caused by overapplication or dust getting into the finish from before or during application. Screen with white or red abrasive pad. Remove all sanding dust. Reapply a thin coat of Polyx-oil or a layer of Liquid Wax Cleaner. Always test first in a small area to ensure success.

Q: How do you remove Polyx-oil?
A: OSMO Brush Cleaner or mineral spirits.