

# Briwax Spirit-based Dye

Briwax Colourfast Spirit-based Dyes are **very strong coloured grain enhancing stains for timber** and many other surfaces. They are usually applied to bare timber, but can also be used as a '**wiping stain**' over an existing finish, or to tint other clear finishes.

**The colours are particularly intense** – the black is not pale or purple as with many lesser varieties, and the Rimu especially is a colour we're very proud of.

The Spirit-based dyes are exactly that – a dye. Unlike most other wood stains in New Zealand, they are pure colour and don't contain any finishing element. This makes them **much easier to use and more flexible**.

They **dry very quickly** (15 minutes or less), and can be mixed and thinned to any amount. As soon as they are dry, they can be covered by the **protective finish of your choice**.

On bare timber:

- **Wipe on** the stain with a cloth, in the direction of the grain.
- If you go over an existing area twice, the old dye will 'live up' and the entire surface will have a consistent colour. It won't make the colour darker. This means that it's almost impossible to get a 'tide mark' – the dye will always leave an even tone over the whole area. If you find that you have a patchy area of colour where there's not enough stain, just apply more and keep wiping.
- **You can mix or thin** any of the spirit-based dye colours to any extent, thinning with methylated spirits. For example, the Brown Mahogany stain is very dark. Thinning it by 50% with methylated spirits will make a more subtle brown, but still with an even colour. Adding a little yellow will brighten the colour, adding black will darken it.
- You can thin down the dye **even after it's been applied** – simply wipe over with a cloth dipped in methylated spirits. If you keep doing this eventually you'll remove most of the colour. This technique is particularly useful for **matching existing colours**, and is the only way you can be certain your new piece of timber will match the old.
- Once you're completely happy with the colour you've achieved, **lock in this colour** by using the finish of your choice. **Any clear finish** will do – use Briwax Danish Oil or Teak Oil, varnish, polyurethane, two-pack, spray lacquer, anything! The only thing to be careful of would be when using a methylated spirits-based finish (very few finishes are), which could of course lift the colour back out if you rub hard.
- If you would like to use **Briwax Original Wax** as a finishing coat, seal the colour in first with a single coat of Briwax Danish Oil.
- Briwax Spirit-based dyes **can be used as a tint** in any spirit, oil or cellulose-based clear finish such as Briwax Danish Oil, polyurethane, varnish, or lacquer (but not an acrylic, water-based or resin finish). You get less control over the final colour, but you can do the job with one application.

## On bare timber:

- Briwax Spirit-based Dye can be used as a **'wiping stain'** over existing timber finishes. The solvents will microscopically soften the existing clear finish and let the dye into it, and then the finish will dry and harden again, locking in the new colour.
- You can **tint in between coats** to correct the colour. For example, after applying a coat of Briwax Danish Oil, if you decide you'd prefer a darker finish, apply more dye (perhaps thinned to get the correct tone), and then continue with the Danish Oil.
- When wiping, try to apply it evenly – it's not quite as easy to get an even finish as when using the dye on bare timber.

## Other things to know about Spirit-based Dyes:

- Briwax spirit-based dyes can be used on timber, veneer, and customwood, of course. It can also be used on surfaces you might not expect – for example on bare plaster. We've seen an entire feature wall roughly plastered then coloured with dark blue dye, for example, which looked fantastic! Experiment and be brave!
- The dyes are available in **fifteen colours** (black, blue, green, red, yellow, and ten different wood shades), in 250ml bottles on the shelf.
- If you're using more than one bottle of dye, we recommend mixing them together to ensure you get an exact match before application.
- All the colours are available in **1 litre bottles**, which are of course much more cost-effective. Although these bottles aren't often stocked in all colours on the shelf, any store can order them for delivery within 1-2 days.
- We provide a **colour-matching service** for quantities of 5 litres or more. All you need to do is send us an example of the bare timber and the finished colour you want. Talk to the paint department in your local store for more details.
- Briwax Spirit-based Dyes have an almost **unlimited shelf life**. Really! Even if they've been allowed to dry out over many years, you can simply add some methylated spirits and they'll be ready to use.
- It's perfectly ok to thin with the usual purple-coloured methylated spirits. The amount of purple dye is so small it won't make a difference to the final colour. The only possible exception is if you're trying to thin down red dye, in which case you can use a clear equivalent such as Universal Thinners.
- Briwax Spirit-based Dyes are a **grain-enhancing dye**. That is, they emphasise and bring out the grain in the timber. If you prefer to have an even tone over the entire timber surface, use the **Briwax Water-based Dyes**. You can order these from the paint department in any store if they don't have them on the shelf. Briwax Water-based Dyes don't dry as quickly, and so are easier to use on very large areas such as **floors**.
- For the **strongest possible colour**, apply Briwax Water-based Dye first, allow to dry, then apply Briwax Spirit-based Dye over the top.