



make
your own
**Wiping
Varnish**

It doesn't take a chemist to mix wiping varnish. You'll know exactly what you're getting, and save a little money in the process.

**Wiping Varnish
Recipe**

- 2 parts varnish
(any type)
- 3 parts mineral
spirits
(paint thinner)



▲ Pick up a quart of varnish and a quart of paint thinner and you'll have the ingredients you need to blend a batch of wiping varnish.

Mixing your own wiping varnish offers a couple of nice advantages. First, you can be certain that the product you're using is a true wiping varnish, not an oil/varnish imposter. Second, it's a good way to save a little money. You can avoid paying a high price for a product that contains a large amount of inexpensive thinner.

Another reason to make your own wiping varnish is that there's basically nothing to it. My recipe simply calls for two parts varnish and three parts mineral spirits (paint thinner), by volume. I combine the two in a glass jar and then stir until the color is consistent.

Any type of oil-based varnish will work but I prefer satin or semi-gloss polyurethane. Since, the film created by a wiping varnish is generally pretty thin, a durable poly varnish will give you an extra measure of protection.

One final note. Varnishes can vary by type and brand and they'll have slightly different consistencies. So don't be afraid to tinker with the proportions until you have a wiping varnish mix that works well for you.