



**CALIFORNIA
HOUSE.**

FINE GAMEROOM FURNITURE

WOOD FINISH GUIDE

FINISHING STEPS:

Thorough Sanding: A great finish begins with careful attention to the wood surface prior to color. Every piece of California House furniture is sanded by hand, using several, progressively higher grits of sandpaper to get a surface well prepared for color.

NGR (Non-Grain Raising): The initial color step on many California House finishes, NGR is a lightly pigmented, sprayed on solution that helps even tones of the natural wood. NGR solutions dry very quickly and help add visual depth and clarity to the finish.

Stain: Stain adds color to natural wood. May be applied over NGR or directly to the wood. At California House, stain is sprayed on evenly, then wiped off to prevent a muddy appearance. What remains will be the base color of the end product.

Sealer: At California House, we use a self-sealer, which means we use the same post-catalyzed conversion varnish as both sealer and top-coat (see below). Sealer is a clear coat that helps with moisture resistance, enhances visual depth and clarity, and generally provides additional toughness for the product. Sealer is used after the stain coat and is sanded when dry for a smoother product.

Sealer Sanding: After the sealer has thoroughly dried, we hand sand every piece again. This sanding eliminates any wood fibers that might have raised in the sealer step. This process turns the sealer to a white dust, which is then carefully wiped off in preparation of the next step.

Toner: Toner is applied after the initial sealing step is sanded. Toner is used when we want the finish to be more uniform in color and helps even out the lights and darks of natural wood. This is generally referred to as an artistic step as the finisher chooses where to apply toner to even the color as necessary.

Top-Coat: This is the tough, smooth, clear material that will protect your furniture. At California House, we use a post-catalyzed conversion varnish, which means two materials - a high-solid base and a hardening catalyst - are mixed and cross-link together during curing. Post-catalyzed conversion varnish is a very tough top-coat that creates a better barrier against wear and tear than a pre-catalyzed lacquer or shellac alternative. Post-catalyzed conversion varnish also resists yellowing over time.

FINISH COLORS:

Caramel: Caramel is a light brown finish with warm undertones. Caramel uses a base NGR to even out colors, however much of the wood's natural color will peek through leading to some color variation. NGR / STAIN / SEALER / TOP-COAT

Coffee: Coffee is a dark, roasted coffee finish that is closer to a translucent black than brown. Coffee is a fairly uniform color that evens out the underlying color of the wood, yet still allows a small amount of the grain characteristics to peek through. NGR / STAIN / SEALER / TONER / TOP-COAT

Lager: Lager is our lightest finish color on Maple and has a light golden-brown color with warm undertones. Lager uses a base NGR to even out colors, however much of the wood's natural color will peek through leading to some color variation. NGR / STAIN / SEALER / TOP-COAT

London: A predominately grey finish with undertones of brown. Can vary in color based on the grain structure and color of the natural hardwood and is meant to showcase the natural wood, not hide it. London was developed to coordinate with both trendy greys but also feel at home with more traditional earth tones and browns. This WILL NOT be an even, consistent color as it was developed to show the natural beauty of the underlying wood. NGR / STAIN / SEALER / LIGHT TONER / TOP-COAT

Medium Brown: Medium Brown is just that – a brown that is not too light and not too dark. Medium Brown features a fairly uniform color that evens out the underlying color of the wood, yet still allows the grain characteristics to peek through. NGR / STAIN / SEALER / TONER / TOP-COAT

Old English, 15% Upgrade: Old English is a Hi-Lo finish that combines a Caramel color base with Umber highlighting around the edges. NOTE: Old English is developed for chairs and stools and is not intended for large scale pieces (bars). NGR / STAIN / SEALER / TONER / AIR-BRUSH / TOP-COAT

Old Pecan, 15% Upgrade: Old Pecan is a Hi-Lo finish that uses a different application process and a combination of existing stains and toners to derive its final appearance. NOTE: Old Pecan is developed for chairs / stools and is not intended for large scale pieces (bars). AIR-BRUSH / STAIN / SEALER / LIGHT TONER / AIR-BRUSH / TOP-COAT

Onyx: Onyx is an opaque black finish that uses toner to derive its color rather than a thick paint. Onyx hides visual grain color, however allows some grain definition to peek through the final product. SEALER / TONER / TOP-COAT

Smoke: Smoke is an opaque grey finish that uses toner to derive its color rather than a thick paint. Smoke is layered gradually and in certain light displays billows of color, much like a plume of smoke. Smoke hides visual grain color, however allows some grain definition to peek through the final product. SEALER / TONER / TOP-COAT

Tobacco: Tobacco is a medium brown finish with warm undertones and hints of brown, red, and yellow. Tobacco is toned, which means it is more uniform in color than a stain-only finish, but because it is so light, Tobacco allows much of the grain and wood color to peek through. NGR / STAIN / SEALER / TONER / TOP-COAT

Umber: Umber is a dark brown finish with warm undertones. Umber is a fairly uniform color that evens out the underlying color of the wood, yet still allows the grain characteristics to peek through. NGR / STAIN / SEALER / TONER / TOP-COAT

Designer Grey on Oak, 20% Premium: Designer Grey on Oak is premium because of the underlying wood species. It is a predominately grey color with brown highlights. The Oak grain structure and color of the natural wood will be evident. NGR / STAIN / SEALER / LIGHT TONER / TOP-COAT

Dark on Oak, 20% Premium: Dark Oak is premium because of the underlying wood species. It is a medium to dark brown color. The Oak grain structure and color of the natural wood will be evident. STAIN / SEALER / TOP-COAT

Rustic White Oak, 20% Premium: Rustic White Oak is premium because of the underlying wood species. Rustic White Oak is intended to show the natural beauty of hardwood, knots, checks, and all. It is an un-defected wood with no color added. SEALER / TOP-COAT. NOTE: AVAILABLE ON DISTRICT COLLECTION ONLY

Natural Walnut, 125% Premium: Natural Walnut is premium because of the underlying wood species. Natural Walnut is a clear finish on Walnut wood. Walnut is known for its natural depth and beauty. We use both heart and sap wood to reveal Walnut's tonal range. SEALER / TOP-COAT. NOTE: AVAILABLE ON SELECT PRODUCTS ONLY

Black Tea on Walnut, 125% Premium: Black Tea on Walnut is premium because of the underlying wood species. Black Tea on Walnut is a light stain on walnut wood, which is known for its natural depth and beauty. STAIN / SEALER / TOP-COAT. NOTE: AVAILABLE ON SELECT PRODUCTS ONLY

DECORATIVE FINISH TREATMENTS AVAILABLE ON ALL FINISHES:

All California House "Standard" finishes may be upgraded with the decorative treatments below. Decorative treatments are additional finishing steps taken after an initial "Standard" finish is applied to the wood. Decorative treatments add additional depth, texture, and color to the finish of the product and may be combined (i.e. Umber Finish - Distressed and Glazed).

Distressed, 5% Upgrade: Distressing is the process of making the product look as if it has been in use for many years. Our artisans use various tools such as rasps, chains with welded objects attached, and awls to simulate dents, dings, wormholes, and other effects. Distressing adds texture and depth to your furniture while also eliminates the need to be overly protective while in use – any dent will look like it was supposed to be there!

Glazed, 10% Upgrade: Glaze is a black substance that is sprayed on, allowed to dry, and wiped off as a powder. Glaze fills the pores of the wood and is often used to highlight distressing. Glaze will create a richer, visually deeper, slightly darker appearance on each finish it is applied to and highlight the grain structure of your product.

Matte, 5% Upgrade: Matte finish is a lower sheen level.