

# Staining for Students

**Objective:** To discuss proper wood safety and to learn the basics of staining.

**Materials:**

- Stain (color of choice)
- Wood Clover cut-outs
- Woodworking safety gear (pictures or actual items)
- Paintbrush or sponge for staining
- Paint tray
- Magnets (optional)

**10 to 15 minutes; Find a Career**

Ask students to write as many woodworking careers as they can. After discussing careers, ask students to decide which career they would be most interested in and why.

**10 to 15 minutes; Wood Safety**

Introduce the top 10 rules of wood safety. (See worksheet below)

Discuss woodworking safety gear, including gloves, eye protection, ear protection, and facemasks. Actual items can be on display to demonstrate proper use and purpose. Pictures can also be available to serve this purpose.

**5 to 10 minutes; Staining Basics**

The process for staining and finishing wood is the same whether the wood is new or stripped:

- 1. Wear rubber gloves to protect your hands from the stain.**
- 2. Pour a small amount of stain into an open pan or a paint roller tray.**
- 3. Dip a clean sponge, cloth, or paintbrush into the stain and squeeze out the excess.**

The pigment in the stain settles to the bottom of the can after several hours. For a more uniform stain job, stir the stain at regular intervals.

4. Using long, continuous strokes, apply the stain to a small area at a time, following the grain pattern of the wood as shown in Figure 1.

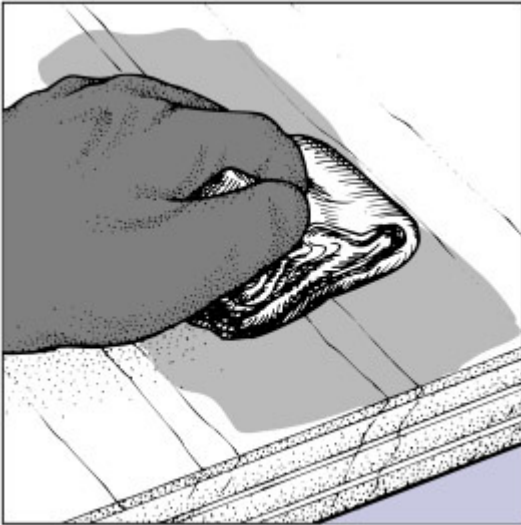


Figure 1: Apply stain in the direction of the wood grain.

5. Wipe the wet stain with a clean, dry cloth to even out the application and to remove excess stain.

6. Repeat for a darker tone.

#### 25 to 35 minutes; Clover Cutouts Magnets

Ask students to thoroughly sand pre-cut 4 leaf clover cutouts. These can be homemade or bought from the store. In a well-ventilated area, using the process listed above, stain the cutouts using the color of choice. Allow wood to dry between coats. When finished, add a magnet to the back for a wonderful 4-H refrigerator decoration! Larger cutouts can be used for wall hangings or clocks.



# Woodworking Shop Safety

## 10 Safety Tips to Post in Your Shop

- 1) **Think Before You Cut** – The most powerful tool in your shop is your brain, use it. Thinking your cuts and movements through before acting can help save both fingers and scrapwood.
- 2) **Keep a Clean Shop** – A cluttered shop is an accident waiting to happen. Keeping your shop clean will help protect you, and your tools, from tripping hazards.
- 3) **Avoid Distractions** – Pay attention to your actions. Looking up to watch the shop TV or visitor can result in your hand contacting the blade. Always wait until you have completed your cut before you take your eyes off the blade.
- 4) **Don't Rush** – Keep in mind that this is just a hobby and take a break when you feel rushed or frustrated with a project. Mistakes happen when we rush to complete a job.
- 5) **Don't Force It** – If your saw is resisting the cut, stop and see what's wrong. A misaligned rip fence or improperly seated throat plate can sometimes cause a board to get stuck in mid cut. Forcing the board in these situations may cause kickback or contact with the blade. Take a moment to evaluate the situation and determine the problem.
- 6) **Protect Yourself** – Wearing the proper shop protection is an important part of safe tool operation. Goggles, Ear Protection, and Lung Protection should be used when operating tools. Use push sticks when working close to the blade and make sure the tool's safety features are in place.
- 7) **Let the Tool Stop** – Giving the power tool time to wind down after a cut is an often-overlooked safety mistake. Even without power, the spinning blade can still do a lot of damage.
- 8) **Fumes and Dust** – Solvent fumes and airborne dust can present health and explosion hazards. Care should be taken to ensure a supply of fresh air and use only explosion proof vent fans.
- 9) **Wear Appropriate Clothing** – Loose clothing or hair can get caught in power tools and cause severe injury.
- 10) **Inspect Your Tools** – Inspect your tools before using them, including blades and extension cords. Damaged tools can be an accident waiting to happen.