








CHOOSE THE RIGHT STAIN FOR THE JOB

TYPE OF STAIN	HOW TO IDENTIFY	MOST IMPORTANT PROPERTY	WHEN TO USE	COMMENT
 <p>Oil Stain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listed thinner and clean-up solvent is mineral spirits ("petroleum distillate," "aliphatic hydrocarbon") 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dries slowly so provides plenty of time to wipe off excess 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under any finish except water base You don't need a special property of another stain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow overnight drying before coating over with a finish
 <p>Varnish Stain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listed thinner and clean-up solvent is mineral spirits ("petroleum distillate," "aliphatic hydrocarbon") Labeled to indicate varnish, polyurethane varnish or hard-drying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dries hard so doesn't need a topcoat when coating over a stained and finished surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On small surfaces You want to leave excess to build When coating over an already stained and finished surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If wiping off excess, work rapidly or have a second person help
 <p>Water-based Stain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listed thinner and clean-up solvent is water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces exposure to solvents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under a water-based finish To avoid exposure to solvents You want easy water cleanup 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If wiping off excess, work rapidly or have a second person help
 <p>Gel Stain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistency is thick like mayonnaise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates blotching on softwoods such as pine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staining pine or similar softwood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compared to a liquid stain, gel stain reduces depth on many hardwoods
 <p>Lacquer Stain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong odor Xylene and/or ketones are listed as solvents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dries very rapidly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For very fast drying To make a toner with lacquer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have to wipe off the excess within a minute or two, so it helps to work with a second person
 <p>NGR (non-grain-raising) Dye Stain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dye packaged in liquid form Usually contains methanol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colors more uniformly and intensely than pigment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For very fast drying For deeper and more even coloring than can be achieved with pigment To make a toner with lacquer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spray the stain evenly and leave it, or work with a second person if wiping off excess
 <p>Water-Soluble Dye Stain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dye packaged in powder form Instructions are to dissolve in water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colors more uniformly and intensely than pigment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For deeper and more even coloring than can be achieved with pigment To avoid exposure to solvents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brushing a water-based finish over the dye may dissolve and smear it Apply a barrier coat of shellac or varnish (a "washcoat") in between