



TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

TransFast® Powder Dye Concentrate

Homestead Finishing Products

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Product Description TransFast Powder Dyes are concentrated dyes designed to be mixed with hot water and used as a dye stain on bare wood for interior surfaces. It is not suitable for exterior use. TransFast is not a finish and **must** be top coated with a clear finish. TransFast Dyes are suitable for furniture and architectural applications but **are not** recommended for toys, infant furniture (under the age of 3) or food preparation surfaces.

Each TransFast Bottle contains 1 oz. dye by weight. The density of the powder varies so some bottle may appear almost full while other may be partially full. This is normal.

Handling Product Wear rubber, vinyl, latex or nitrile gloves to protect your hands and the use of a dust respirator (a particulate respirator for sawdust is fine) is recommended when mixing. Avoid breathing powder. Always wash hands after use. Store mixed product in a properly labelled container and KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN.

Mixing TransFast Dyes The suggested mix ratio for each dye is printed on the bottle and varies by color. We strongly suggest that you only mix half the amount of the dye in the bottle so you can test the color. That way you have more dye to increase the intensity. Use hot tap water. Rural users with wells should use distilled water. Measure the appropriate amount you want to mix and stir into hot tap water until the powder is combined with the water. Use plastic or glass containers and do not use metal containers. When all the powder is stirred in, let the solution cool to room temperature. It's a good idea to strain through a fine mesh paper filter or a coffee filter.

If you would like to use less product to mix up sample batches you can weigh the dye. 1 oz. dye equals 28 grams.

Applying TransTint Dyes Apply TransFast dyes by brush, rag, sponge or spray. Any of these methods produce acceptable results. Since water will raise the grain of any wood, you can raise the grain of the wood before applying the dye, but it is not necessary. As a rule, tight, dense hardwoods like maple do not need a grain raising, while softer and open grained woods like pine and oak may benefit from pre-raising the grain. To pre-raise the grain, wipe the wood with distilled water after the last grit you sand with and allow to dry. Re-sand with the final grit (such as 220) and then you can apply the dye.

When you apply water reduced dye, flood the surface with dye from a rag, brush or sponge, and work it quickly to cover the surface. Get the entire surface wet with dye until it's uniformly saturated. On chairs and other complex items try to work on a manageable area. On frame and panel doors or other complex surfaces, use a small brush or a "used" synthetic steel wool pad to work the dye into crevices and corners. A plant mister used to apply water dyes works quite well. On floors and other large surfaces, propylene glycol can be added to the mixed dye to increase the open time. (10-15% PG by volume)

Spraying water dyes is an easy way to get them on large items. You may choose not to wipe the dye if working with splotch prone woods. Or just spray the item liberally with the dye and then wipe afterwards to blot up dye.

The color of the wood when wet with dye is not necessarily the color when it's finished. To get a good idea of whether or not the intensity and shade is correct, let the dye completely dry, and then wipe it with mineral spirits or naphtha. However, dyes shift in shade depending on the finish applied, so the only way to be truly accurate is to practice on some samples and finish them with several coats of the finish you'll be using. To make a dye stronger add more powdered dye to the solution. To make a dye weaker, add more water. To lighten up a surface that's already dyed, apply clean water with a clean rag before you apply a finish. You can remove quite a bit of color but never all of it. On wood with very pronounced pores like oak and ash, you may notice that the pores do not accept dye and remain light. This is a surface tension phenomenon related to the inherently high surface tension of water.

There are a couple of options in dealing with this.

- Apply a pigmented stain over the dye
- Use a paste wood filler to fill and color the pores
- Seal the wood, then use a colored glaze or stain to color the wood

Water dyes can be coated when the wood feels dry to the touch. This can be several hours or 8 hours depending upon weather. If the wood has raised fibers, a light rubbing with gray or maroon steel wool is best, as sandpaper may cut through the sharp edges.

You may experience bleeding with water dyes and some water-base finishes. Bleeding shows up as color in the sanding residue when you sand the finish and create a "muddy" appearance. This can be eliminated by sealing the dye in with solvent dewaxed shellac. A very easy alternative is to add 10% by volume of any water based finish to the TransFast solution to act as a binder.

Inter-Mixing TransFast Dyes TransFasts are intermixable with all other dyes in the TransFast line. They also mix with TransTint liquid dye when they are dissolved in water. .

Controlling Uneven Staining When uneven staining happens it's a condition known as splotching. This can happen with any wood, but is most prevalent with all softwoods (pines, firs, etc.) and in the hardwoods; cherry, poplar, maple, aspen, alder and birch. If uneven staining occurs there are several remedies.

1. Spray the stain and do not wipe it.
2. Apply a water based pre-stain controller such as General Finishes or Minwax. Make sure you use a pre-stain controller for water based stains. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
3. Apply a washcoat 1/2 - 1 pound cut shellac
4. Apply a washcoat of water based finish thinned 2:1 water/finish

For 3-4 - Apply the washcoat and let it dry completely. Apply it by hand or spray. Sand the washcoat with 320-400 grit sandpaper, remove the dust, and then apply your stain. This procedure requires experimentation and not all wood species react the same way.

Storing Dyes Unmixed powdered dyes have no shelf life. Mixed dyes have an unlimited shelf life but if you use dye that has been stored for over several months, **always** check the color first before you apply it to your project. Store the mixed dye in a clean plastic or glass container.

Known Incompatibilities TransFast Powdered Dyes are not compatible with other solvents. Do not use them in alcohol, lacquer thinner or mineral spirits.

Cleanup Dye concentrate and mixed dye can be cleaned up with water from non-porous surfaces like plastic, glass and metal. On porous surfaces such as concrete or surfaces where residual stain shows, a chlorine based cleaner such as Comet with Bleach or Clorox can be used. Always test a small surface first to make sure cleaner will not remove too much color. For hands and skin, a skin safe cleaner called Reduran will remove dye.

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MSDS for all TransFast Colors are available at: www.homesteadfinishingproducts.com/htdocs/msds.htm