



# Do It Yourself: Staining Kitchen Cabinets

By Tresa Erickson

If you're planning a kitchen remodel, like many homeowners, you may be looking for ways to cut costs and stay on budget. The more work you do yourself, the more money you can save.

One task that you might consider doing yourself is staining the cabinets. It will take you some time but save you some cash in the long run. Here's how to go about it.

To stain your cabinets, you will need some 120-grit sandpaper, 220-grit sandpaper, wood conditioner, paintbrushes, tack cloths, rags, stain and polyurethane. Some experts recommend water-based stain and sealer because they are easier to work with, while others insist on oil-based products because of their durability. Do some research to make the right choice for you.

Once you have all of the supplies in hand, you can start the process by preparing the bare wood. Using 120-grit sandpaper, lightly sand the wood in the direction of the grain; this will prevent scratches. Remove all of the loose dust with a tack cloth. Then sand the cabinets again, this time using 220-grit sandpaper; this will create a smooth finish.

Remove all of the loose dust with a tack cloth and apply a coat of wood conditioner to the cabinets. Let it dry completely and then apply a coat of stain to the cabinets. Brush on the stain with a paintbrush following the grain of the wood. Then take a rag and rub the stain into the wood using a circular motion. Finish the staining by wiping along the grain of the wood one final time to ensure an even finish.

Let the stain dry completely. Then apply two coats of polyurethane following the manufacturer's directions. Once you have sealed the cabinets, make sure you give them ample time to cure before you have them installed in your kitchen.

Staining your cabinets yourself can save you money big time in your kitchen remodel. Just be sure you have done your homework and have the time to commit to the project. Remember, you will be living with your cabinets for some time, so make certain they look good. ■

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AREA	PRICE	DAY/TIMES	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LISTED BY	AGENT	PHONE
Bedford	\$229,900	Sun 1:00-3:00	6701 Summerfield Ct.	Spec condo, pond lots still available	Welles Bowen Gio Realty, Inc.	Michelle Rumans	419-467-5882
Bedford	\$181,000	Sun 1:00-3:00	7982 Timber Wood Lane	2 brm, 2 bath Condo on wooded lot	Welles Bowen Gio Realty, Inc.	Ron Klawonn	419-410-1151
Delta		1180 County Rd. 7	NOON-3 PM	Real Estate Auction On-Site Sat., Feb 18 at 11am, Preview & Reg. 10 am, 3 brm	Beth Rose Auction/Loss Realty Group	Beth Rose	419-534-6223
Delta	\$249,900	Sun 1:00-3:00	8370 Co Rd L	Log home, 3 brms, 2 bath, pond, pool, pole barn, private	Welles Bowen Realtors	Janet Hines	419-262-3300
Five Points/Norhtowne	\$68,250	Sunday 2-4 pm	1454 Amesbury	Move in ready, 3 brm brick, disability access, maintenance free	Sulphur Springs Realty	Ed Hoffman	419-241-9684
Franklin Park	\$160,000	Sun 2:00-4:00	3618 Brunswick	Awesome updated brick ranch	Welles Bowen Realtors	Roula Manton	419-410-4208
Maumee	\$164,000	Sun 12-2:30 pm	4285 Crystal Ridge	3 brms, 2 full baths, villa, 1768 sq ft, built in 2004, free standing unit	Sulphur Springs Realty	J.J. Kosmider	419-356-2209
Monclova-Waterside	\$151,900	Sunday 1:00-3:30 pm	4739 Port, Monclova	Just listed, 1st open, cozy & attractive, 2 brm, 2 bath, all appliances stay	RE/MAX Preferred Associates	Sharon Kowalski	419-277-4125
Old Orchard	\$109,900	Sunday 2/5/12, 2-4 pm	2775 Kenwood, 43606	3 brm, 1.5 baths, family & rec rms, very clean, close to UT	The Danberry Co., Realtors	Tony Bassett	419-340-7843
Old West End	\$124,777	Sun, Feb. 5, 2012, 1-2:30 pm	2222 Parkwood Ave.	Grand 4 brms, 3 baths, eat-in kitchen, plus carriage house	The Danberry Co., Realtors	Mathias Gaynor, ePro	419-277-2626
Old West End	\$163,777	Sun, Feb. 5, 2012, 1-2:30 pm	2238 Scottwood Ave.	Blend of old and new, gourmet kitchen, 4 brms, spacious & gracious	The Danberry Co., Realtors	Judy Stone ABR, ePro	419-241-1717
Ottawa Hills	\$289,900	Sunday 2-4 pm	3763 Edgevale	Richly appointed brick Tudor! 4 brm, 2.5 bath	Effler/Schmitt Co.	David Effler	419-537-1113
Ottawa Hills	\$225,000	Sunday 2-4 pm	2248 Innisbrook	Outstanding Meadow setting Colonial! 4 brm, 2.5 bath	Effler/Schmitt Co.	Tim Effler	419-537-1113
Perrysburg	\$229,999	1:00-2:30	14531 Olde Trail	4 brm, 2.5 bath, Super cool! 2000 sf-Backyard friends will enjoy! Motivated!	Welles Bowen Realtors	Kam Warner	419-345-5170
South Toledo	\$113,000	1:00-3:00	3457 Beechway	3 brm, 1 full bath, owner anxious! BRING US OFFERS!	Welles Bowen Realtors	Shelby Myerholtz	419-877-0464
Sylvania Schools	\$169,900	Sun 2:00-4:00	4450 Woodbriar	Brick 3 brm, 2 bath ranch, City of Toledo/Sylvania schools	Welles Bowen Realtors	Claire Browning	419-215-7929
Sylvania	\$280's	Sun. 2-4	6542 Carrietowne Ct.	1.5 story, 3600 sq. ft., newly decorated, 3 brms., 2.5 bath, den, FP	Carrietowne Realtors	Terry McLeary	419-841-3551
Wauseon	\$369,900	1:00-3:00	13205 Deer Run	4 brm, 5 full baths, gorgeous custom brick home!	Welles Bowen Realtors	Yvonne Johnson	419-789-7231
West Toledo	\$109,900	Sunday 2/5/12, 2-4 pm	6343 Dorr, 43615	Gorgeous! 4 brm, 2 full baths, huge LR & DR, office	The Danberry Co., Realtors	Tony Bassett	419-340-7843
West Toledo	\$153,900	Sunday 1 to 4 pm	3033 Meadowwood	3 brm, 2.5 bath condo	Welles Bowen Realtors	Dee Cottrell	419-360-8001
Whitehouse	\$259,900	Sunday 2-4 pm	11010 Lake View	New roof, newer furnace & air, out/bldgs, suite over garage, across from lake/ park	Sulphur Springs Realty	Jim Flynn	419-340-8999
Whitehouse	\$179,900	Sunday 2/5/12, 1-3 pm	10652 Shaynii Lane	2006 custom ranch with 3 brms, 2 baths, basement, 1635 sq ft, mint, large lot	The Danberry Co., Realtors	Karen Kelley	419-346-2303

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