



“Lifestyles”

**Creative Living with
Sheryl Borden**

Home & Hearth Section I

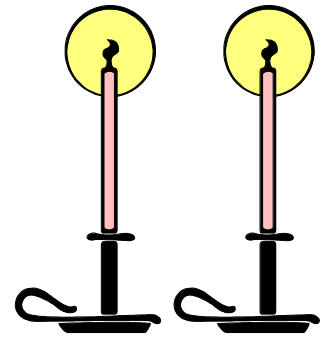


Table of Contents

Candle Care & Safety Tips	I-3
Guide to Wood Finishing	I-4
Candle Decorating Trends	I-6
Nesting Tables	I-7
Safety at the Window	I-7
Making a Grand Entrance.....	II-8
Wallpaper Guide.....	II-9
Vase Basics.....	II-11
Factors That Affect Indoor Air Quality	II-12

Due to the size of this section, there are 2 different PDF files. Example: Candle Care & Safety Tips is page I-3, which means it's in Part I on page 3. Making a Grand Entrance is page II-8, which means it's in Part II.

Candle Care And Safety Tips



Olga Puzas, Senior Regional Vice President and Director of Communications with PartyLite Gifts, Inc., suggests ways we can enjoy maximum benefits from our candles as well as keep them burning brightly by caring for them properly.

Candle Care:

- **Tealights** – feature clear cup open containers and metal cup closed containers.
- **Floaters** – trim wicks to 1/4" and keep them centered; use proper holders; if using in the swimming pool, keep away from filter.
- **Votives** – trim wicks to 1/4".
- **Taper/dinner candles** – trim wicks to 1/4" and keep them centered and out of direct sunlight.
- **Pillars** – trim wicks to 1/4". At the first lighting, burn for 5-10 minutes only, then burn a minimum of 1 hour per inch.
- **Square pillars** – trim wicks to 1/4" and keep them centered; never "hug" wax.
- **Balls** – trim wicks to 1/4" and keep them centered.
- **3-Wicks** – NEVER trim wicks; keep wicks pointed towards center; burn a minimum of 6 hours at each lighting.
- **Wax-filled glass** – trim wicks to 1/4".
- **Buff and shine** your candles with a nylon or fine mesh stocking before lighting.

Candle Safety:

- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Snuffing vs. blowing out flames prevents wax from spraying and keeps the wick centered.
- Burn candles in appropriate, heat-resistant holders on heat safe surfaces.
- Always remove sustainer clip from the holder after burning votives.

- Do not move candles while they are lit and do not touch the liquid wax at any time.
- Keep liquid wax free of wick and match debris as these are flammable.
- Carbon may build up at the tip of the wick. If so, extinguish the candle, snip off the tip and re-light.
- Keep floral rings and decorations at least 2" away from candle flame.
- Never burn a candle near anything that can catch fire.
- Keep out of reach of children or pets.

Candle Clean Up:

- For wax spills, try using a blow dryer and rubber spatula, or an ice cube.

What Makes a Quality Candle: With thousands of candles to choose from in the market today, consider these points:

- The candle should feature solid color throughout the core of the candle.
- The candle should have pure unbleached cotton wicks and there should not be any lead.
- Quality fragrances, manufactured by cosmetic and perfume companies, should last the entire "life" of the candle.

**COURTESY: Olga Puzas
PartyLite Gifts, Inc.
www.partylite.com**

Guide to Wood Finishing

Wood finishing is more popular than ever. Typical projects include unfinished furniture, floors, doors, and moldings. A growing number of wood finishers are buying unfinished furniture and finishing it themselves.

Workspace and supplies

Before starting any staining and finishing project, it is important to have a proper workspace and supplies.

Work space

Always work in a well-ventilated, dry and warm place with good light. If the area is cold or damp, wood finishing products may require a longer drying time than the labels indicate. A basement, attic or garage may meet your needs. The corner of a living room could be a temporary workshop if you put down a heavy drop cloth.

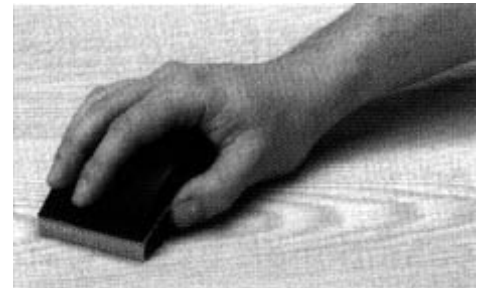
Supplies

There are a number of items frequently used in wood finishing projects. Just like the carpenters' old expression "measure twice, cut once", refer to the following list as well as the Minwax® product label before starting any job.

- Drop cloths or newspapers
- Rags
- Brushes
- Sandpaper
- Paper towels
- Mineral spirits
- Metal container
- Stir sticks
- Safety glasses
- Rubber gloves are recommended to keep hands clean and protected. Wear old clothes; they are generally lint-free, lessening the chance of particles getting stuck in the finish.



Sand the wood in the direction of the grain, first using medium-grit sandpaper (#120). After sanding smooth with #120, work your way to a fine-grit sandpaper (#220).



When sanding is completed, be sure to remove all sanding dust. If you plan to use an oil-based stain or finish, you can wipe the surface with a cloth dampened with mineral spirits. If you plan to use a water-based product, wipe the surface with a cloth lightly dampened with water. Before staining, make sure the surface is dry, clean and free of dirt, grease, glue and old coatings.

Conditioning the Wood

Applying a wood conditioner is often the key step for obtaining even stain color penetration and reducing blotchiness. The type of stain you select will determine the proper wood conditioner for your project. Oil-based stains require an oil-based conditioner. Use a water-based conditioner with water-based stains.

Surface preparation and wood conditioning

In order to obtain a beautiful finish, the wood's surface must be properly prepared. Repair any cracks, gouges, nail holes, and other defects with Minwax® Stainable Wood Filler. Simply fill the area with a liberal amount of wood filler. Allow the filler to dry and then sand it smooth and flush with the wood. Stainable Wood Filler will accept any Minwax® penetrating stain, allowing the repaired area to blend in with the surrounding wood.

Sanding

Sanding is essential in achieving a smooth, attractive finish. Always sand the wood before applying a stain or finish.

STEP 1



Minwax® Pre-Stain Wood Conditioner

Much of the wood used for projects is "soft" wood, such as pine or spruce. Some hardwoods, such as alder or aspen, are porous and tend to absorb stain unevenly. To help ensure even stain color penetration and beautiful results, it is essential to pre-treat soft or porous woods with Minwax® Pre-Stain Wood Conditioner.



Minwax® Water-Based Pre-Stain

Wood Conditioner



Water-based stains react differently to wood than do oil-based stains. To achieve beautiful results when using Minwax® Water-Based Stains, Minwax® Water-Based Pre-Stain Wood Conditioner must be used on both softwood and hardwood.

This will ensure even stain penetration and reduce grain raising on all woods.

Selecting and applying a wood stain

Minwax® interior wood stains provide rich color while allowing the natural beauty of wood to show through.

The rich, classic penetrating stain, Minwax® Wood Finish™ is available in 18 wood-tone colors and can be used to enhance any interior bare or stripped wood surface.

Minwax® Gel Stain is an easy-to-use stain that provides rich, uniform color for wood, as well as other surfaces like fiberglass, metal, veneer and fiberboard.

The Minwax® Water-Based Stain line meets the needs of the most demanding wood finisher. With 6 pre-mixed wood-tone colors, a White Wash Pickling Stain and a choice of 60 custom-mixed decorator colors, there are a wealth of options.



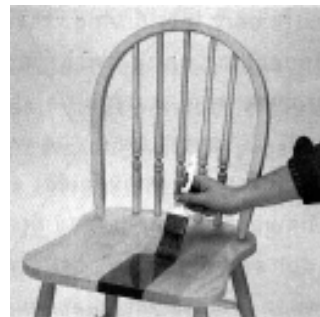
Applying a wood stain

Always stir the stain thoroughly before and occasionally during use.

Before staining, always test the selected stain on a hidden area of the wood or on a scrap piece of wood that is the same as you are staining.

Most stains can be applied with a brush or a rag, working the stain into the wood. Always give the wood a final stroke in the same direction as the wood grain, to remove uneven spots or puddles.

Allow the stain to penetrate according to label directions to achieve the desired look. The more time the stain is allowed to penetrate, the richer and darker the color will be.



STEP 2



Remove excess stain with a rag, wiping in the direction of the grain. The more pressure you apply, the more stain you remove, resulting in a lighter color.

To darken color, apply a second coat after 4-6 hours, repeating the directions for applying the first coat.

STEP 3

Selecting and applying a clear finish

While interior wood stains bring out the beauty of wood, protective clear finishes are essential for preserving and enhancing that beauty. Whether you choose to stain your wood project or not, it is imperative that you protect the wood with a clear finish. A clear finish will protect wood against water, household chemicals, food stains and wear.

Applying a clear finish

Stir the clear finish well. Do not shake the can. Shaking may cause bubbles in the finish.

Apply a thin coat of finish with a brush. Use a natural bristle brush to apply oil-based finishes, such as Fast-Drying Polyurethane, Helsman®, and Clear Shield™. Use a synthetic bristle brush to apply Polycrylic®.

Allow to dry thoroughly. Sand the dried finish lightly with fine sandpaper (#220 grit) and remove all sanding dust.

This will ensure strong adhesion between coats.

Apply a second coat of the clear finish following the directions above. For added durability on heavy-use areas, such as floors and tabletops, a third coat is recommended.

Allow the final coat of the clear finish to dry thoroughly before normal use.

Minwax® protective clear finishes are available in convenient aerosol sprays. Aerosols are great for trim, moldings, louvered shutters and any hard-to-reach areas.



Wood care tips

While Minwax® stains and one-step products are not prone to fading, wood will stay beautiful longer if you keep it out of direct sunlight.

Avoid exposing wood to severe changes in temperature. Even with stain and topcoat protection, wood will expand and contract in response to rapid or extreme temperature and humidity variations.

Over the years, you may want to add more body and luster to the finished furniture. If so, remove all wax and dirt, lightly sand and reapply a coat of the original topcoat or one-step finish.



**COURTESY: Bruce Johnson
Minwax®**

CANDLE DECORATING TRENDS

What's Hot in Home Décor?

One of the newest trends in decorating with candles is to create “multiple points of light” by grouping candles and holders of different heights and sizes. Also, larger candle holders and wall sconces are being used as home decorating accents to brighten a foyer, hallway, or display as a free-standing sculpture. Candles offer captivating alternatives to filling a room with furniture -- change the color of the candles, and move the pieces to different areas of a room to achieve a new look at an affordable price.

Candle displays:

- Use 24" or 30" pillar stands and matching wall sconces to create ambiance in a hallway or living room.



- Create an oasis of candlelight with a wrought iron floor stand that holds seven taper candles. This stand looks like it's straight from a storybook castle!



- Add fragrance and soft mood lighting to any setting with a pair of wrought iron sconces that display tealight candles.



- Build a fire without the fuss with a wrought iron hearthside pillar stand. Matching wall sconces offer a stylish accent to a mantel



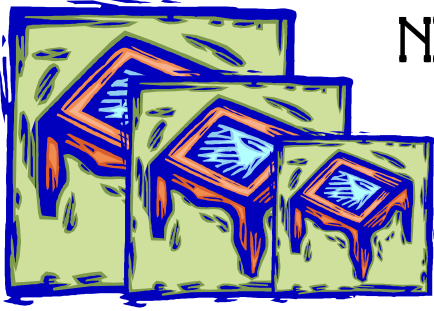
with the hearthside pillar stand, or bring interest to a small room by displaying close together, but at different heights.

- Don't forget the ceiling! Use a wrought iron and frosted glass hanging holder to light up a corner or hallway — or hang from the ceiling of a covered porch.



Imagine all the wonderful and affordable new looks and styles you can create in your home using some of these candle holders - not to mention the cozy ambiance from the soft flicker of candlelight.

**COURTESY: Rita Fuentes
PartyLite Gifts, Inc.**



NESTING TABLES

Nesting tables are becoming popular again. They are great space savers, and can be used for plant stands, for entertaining, etc. And, you can customize them with stenciled designs using water-based stains.

Steps:

1. Remove table legs
2. Mark location of the faux framework using a ruler and pencil
3. Outline both sides with tape.
4. Score lines on either side with utility knife
5. Sponge on the water-based stain
6. Spray back of stencil with adhesive so it will remain in place
7. With first stencil on top, stencil with selected color.
8. Go on to next stencil and continue adding color
9. When through with stains, protect with water-based finish.



COURTESY: Bruce Johnson
Minwax
www.minwax.com

SAFETY AT THE WINDOW

The window covering industry has created many options that help safeguard infants, small children and pets against the hazards presented by window covering cords.

The most commonly used safety device is the

Break-Thru Safety Tassel, introduced by Hunter Douglas years ago. It's a simple device and consists of two small pieces that snap together to join two ends of the cord. Should a child become entangled in the cords, the tassel is designed to break apart with the downward pressure, causing the cords to separate. Another important safety feature of Hunter Douglas blinds is that the paint finish is lead-free. This finish comes on aluminum and wood horizontal blinds as well as on Roman shades.



The **Duette UltraGlide** has a retractable cord that always stays the same length – out of the reach of children, pets and any housekeeping equipment.

Another safety feature is the Cord Tensioner on **Vignette** shadings. It keeps the cord loops taut by using spring tension and with a cord weight and bracket so children or pets can't get entangled in the cords.



Some

blinds have no cord at all. This feature is called the **PermAssure Safety Wand**, and it both tilts and traverses the vanes. It's easily kept out of the child's reach. It's similar to what is on Luminette Privacy Sheers.

The LiteRise blind has no cord either. This system raises or lowers the blind with a light touch on the handle located on the bottom, and it uses no cords. It's available on wood blinds, mini-blinds, Duette



honeycomb shades and pleated shades.

There is also PowerRise motorization that needs no cords or special wiring. It's a battery-powered motorization system that operates with a simple remote control. This, too, is safe for children.



COURTESY: Joe Jankoski
Hunter Douglas Window Fashions
www.hunterdouglas.com