

# DIY Natural Wood Stains

This playbook outlines a procedure for creating homemade wood stains using natural ingredients. It provides an eco-friendly alternative to chemical stains for finishing wood surfaces.

## Step 1: **Gather Materials**

Collect all necessary materials, including natural ingredients such as coffee, tea, vinegar, steel wool, and any additional desired elements for color variations.

## Step 2: **Prepare Base**

Create the base solution for the stain by mixing the vinegar with steel wool in a container. Allow this mixture to sit for a minimum of 24 hours for the steel wool to oxidize.

## Step 3: **Color Testing**

Test the natural ingredients (e.g., coffee or tea) separately by applying them to small wood samples to determine the color each creates. Make note of the desired intensity and color.

## Step 4: **Mix Stain**

Combine the vinegar and steel wool solution with the chosen natural ingredients based on the color testing results to create the full stain mixture.

## Step 5: **Apply Stain**

Use a brush or cloth to apply the homemade stain to the wood surface. Apply multiple coats as needed to achieve the desired color depth, allowing sufficient drying time between coats.

## Step 6: **Finishing Touches**

Once the final coat has dried, assess the color and finish. Apply additional layers if needed or move on to sealing the wood with a natural sealant to protect the stained surface.

# **General Notes**

## **Safety Precautions**

Ensure you are working in a well-ventilated area and wearing appropriate protective gear, such as gloves and safety glasses, when handling materials and applying the stain.

## **Disposal**

Properly dispose of any leftover stain and materials according to local regulations, as the steel wool and vinegar can be reactive.