Steps to Paint Bare Wood

Objective: The following steps will provide instructions on how to prepare bare wood for painting and to select the optimal painting tools to complete your desired project.

1. **Sand the surface**

   - Stock lumber is often coated in a glaze to protect it. Removing the coating will help the paint to adhere to the wood.
   - Sanding opens the grain of the wood, which helps with adhesion.

2. **Seal the knots with a primer**

   - This step will prevent the stain of a knot from bleeding through the paint.
   - It is recommended that an oil-based spray primer is used for ease in clean-up.

3. **Smooth the surface**

   - Use a dedicated primer. They have higher concentrations of solids versus a paint and primer in one. This will better fill the grain for a smoother topcoat.
   - It's normal for the first couple of coats to appear uneven. Bare wood loves to soak up paint.
   - Once dry, lightly sand the surface between each coat to knock down the grain, which raises from the moisture.

4. **Consider a tinted primer**

   - A brightly colored paint or a darker toned paint over a primer will achieve its final hue with less coats.

5. **Choose a color base**

   - Consult a paint expert for recommendations on the correct base for your desired paint color before tinting.

Process to Paint Bare Wood

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Start with a bare wood surface
        │
        ▼
Sand the surface
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        ▼
Seal the knots on the wood with a primer
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        ▼
Smooth the surface with a dedicated primer
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        ▼
Does the first coat or two appear even?
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Yes →
- Let the surface dry between each new coat
- Sand the surface between each coat of primer
- Use a tinted primer to acheive the ideal hue with less coats
- Select a paint color and let the surface dry before each coat
- End painting and enjoy the finished project

No →
- Apply another coat of primer until the surface appears even
- Once the primer is coated evenly, end the primer process