

Antique Finish Facts

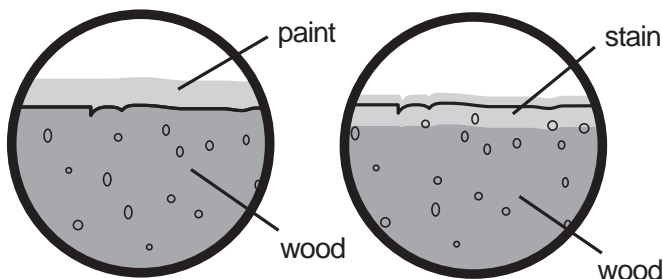
Showplace Antique finishes are distinctly attractive, creating a look that is both clean and crisp, yet filled with character. It is important to understand the inherent characteristics of this unique finish process before an Antique order is placed.



• **Paint vs. stain:** It is vital to understand that while Showplace Antique finishes resemble painted wood, they are not a painted finish, and therefore will exhibit some important differences.

Paint is relatively thick, and tends to “sit on top” of wood, filling and smoothing out any surface it is applied to. Showplace Antique finishes are created with a semi-opaque stain, which is then topcoated with a varnish for superior durability. Stain is thinner than paint, and will penetrate farther into the wood.

These magnified views illustrate this:



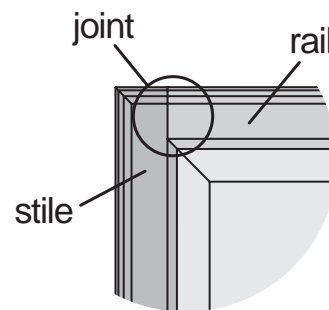
Since stain does not “sit on top” like paint, more of wood’s natural surface texture is retained. This is important when the glaze is applied, as it is texture that creates glazing “hangup.” Penetration of the stain also allows the coloration or density of the underlying wood to create a degree of color variation in Antique finishes. This is to be expected, and is not considered a flaw.

• **End grain:** In areas where the end grain of the wood is exposed – the edges of doors, for example – the stain used in the Antique process will be able to penetrate even deeper. This means end grain areas may appear darker and more variable than flat surfaces like rails, stiles or center panels. This is a natural characteristic of the Antique finish process and is not considered a flaw.

• **Wood character:** Since the stain used in the Antique process does not “sit on top” like paint, wood’s naturally variable character may show through. Mineral streaks appear naturally in wood as a tree absorbs different minerals in its growth

progression. These streaks, like other natural grain and coloration features, may be visible through the Antique finish. This should be considered an element of character, not a flaw.

• **Joinery:** A thin stain does not bridge and fill places where wood is joined like a thicker paint would. Because of this you can expect to see joinery lines in Antique cabinetry. One common place for joinery to be visible is where the stile and rail meet on a cabinet door, drawer header or frame:



This is a natural characteristic of the Antique finish process, and not considered a flaw.

• **Changes over time:** Wood is “hygroscopic,” meaning it naturally absorbs and releases moisture in its environment. These changes in moisture content may result in small dimensional changes that can happen gradually over time, or happen suddenly with seasonal changes or changes in humidity within the home.

When these natural dimensional changes occur, joinery lines can appear that were not visible before. For instance: As wood swells and contracts due to seasonal humidity changes, a joint where a stile and rail meet can open up, showing a line that was not previously visible. This is an inherent characteristic of wood, and is not considered a flaw.

• **Antique charm:** All of these characteristics should be considered part of the charm of Antique finishes. They are intended to suggest aging, and aging is a random process that will inevitably introduce variables. It is these variables that create the Antique finish’s charm.



Charcoal & Black Facts

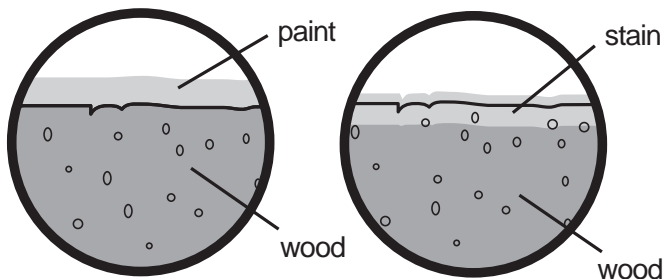
Showplace Charcoal and Black finishes bring distinct character and dramatic contrasts to your cabinetry creation. It is important to understand the inherent characteristics of these unique finishes before an order is placed.



• **Paint vs. stain:** It is vital to understand that while Showplace Charcoal and Black finishes resemble painted wood, they are not a painted finish, and therefore will exhibit some important differences.

Paint is relatively thick, and tends to “sit on top” of wood, filling and smoothing out any surface it is applied to. Showplace Charcoal and Black finishes are created with a semi-opaque stain, which is then topcoated with a varnish for superior durability. Stain is thinner than paint, and will penetrate farther into the wood.

These magnified views illustrate this:



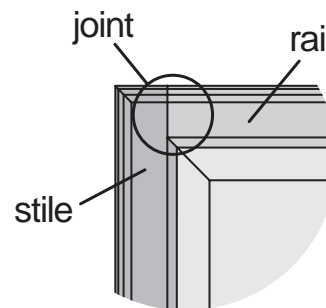
Since stain does not “sit on top” like paint, more of wood’s natural surface texture is retained. Penetration of the stain also allows the coloration or density of the underlying wood to create a degree of color variation in Charcoal and Black finishes. This is to be expected, and is not considered a flaw.

• **End grain:** In areas where the end grain of the wood is exposed – the edges of raised center panels, for example – grain character will be more pronounced, especially in red oak and hickory. This is a natural characteristic of the finish process and is not considered a flaw.

• **Distressing:** All Charcoal orders include hand distressing. (Black orders do not include distressing.) There will be some variation in the amount, location and types of distressing features. Also, due to the nature of the Charcoal finish, the “rub-through” component of distressing is very evident, especially with the Natural undertone. Since rub-through is the result of a hand process, a degree of variation is to be expected. The Charcoal photographs shown in our literature and web sites represent an average level of distressing. Your

cabinetry can be expected to vary somewhat from this average. Variations in distressing should be considered part of Charcoal’s character, not flaws.

• **Joinery:** A thin stain does not bridge and fill places where wood is joined like a thicker paint would. Because of this you can expect to see joinery lines in the cabinetry. One common place for joinery to be visible is where the stile and rail meet on a cabinet door, drawer header or frame:



This is a natural characteristic of the Charcoal and Black finishes, and not considered a flaw.

• **Changes over time:** Wood is “hygroscopic,” meaning it naturally absorbs and releases moisture in its environment. These changes in moisture content may result in small dimensional changes that can happen gradually over time, or happen suddenly with seasonal changes or changes in humidity within the home.

When these natural dimensional changes occur, joinery lines can appear that were not visible before. For instance: As wood swells and contracts due to seasonal humidity changes, a joint where a stile and rail meet can open up, showing a line that was not previously visible. This is an inherent characteristic of wood, and is not considered a flaw.

• **Character and charm:** All of these characteristics should be considered part of the charm of Charcoal and Black finishes. They are intended to suggest aging, and aging is a random process that will inevitably introduce variables. It is these variables that contribute greatly to each finish’s charm.

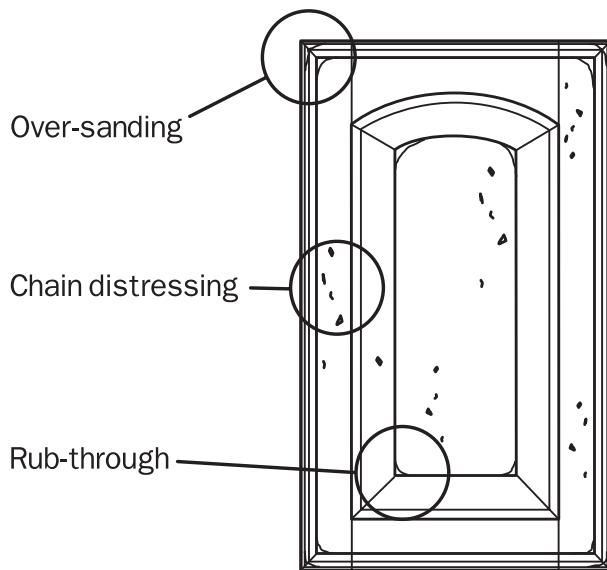


Showplace Distressing

The Showplace distressing option adds distinctive character and the impression of great age to cabinetry. It is important that you and your customer understand the inherent characteristics of this unique process before an order is placed.



• **Overview:** The Showplace distressing process is intended to give an aged, timeworn look to cabinetry, reminiscent of antique furniture. Rather than the crisp edges and sharp detail usually associated with Showplace products, the distressing process creates soft corners and profiles, and subtle, randomly-placed dents. The application of glazing accentuates these features even more.



Showplace uses deliberate, prescribed physical distressing techniques delivered in such a way to appear random, not uniform or contrived. Therefore all distressed products will have some degree of consistency, but no two will look exactly the same. Showplace distressing includes the following:

• **Over-sanding:** Performed prior to finishing, the over-sanding process creates a soft look that resembles wear. All edges and profiles of doors,

drawer fronts and face frames are softened by aggressive hand sanding. The outside corners of doors and drawer fronts will be intentionally rounded over to the point that machining lines no longer appear.

• **Chain distressing:** After over-sanding, trained artisans use specially-designed hand tools to apply chain distressing. This step creates dents, dings and nicks in the wood. A general set of guidelines will be followed in this process to create some degree of consistency, but the depth, frequency, location and pattern of these marks will be different on each part.

• **Rub-through:** After staining, Antique finishes receive an additional step called rub-through. The result is a look that suggests the finish has been rubbed off corners and edges through many decades of wear. Rub-through is achieved by aggressively sanding the finish off selected areas. A highlighting glaze is applied to the exposed areas for contrast, then the normal finishing process is completed.

• **Exclusions:** The following parts will not receive distressing: Plywood end panels and components, cabinet interiors, and interior accessories. Distressing is applied to doors, drawer fronts, face frames, fillers, moldings, valances, wood top edges, decorator shelf edging, onlays, corbels, wainscot paneling, matching decorator panels, wood tops, hoods, mantles, turnings and columns, and integrated end panels.

