

100 RANDOM FURNITURE FLIPPING TIPS



100 Random Tips for the Furniture Flipper

PREP, PAINTING, STAINING & TOP COATING

1. Don't use steel wool with water-based finishes – if left behind, the metal will rust causing little specks of orange in your finish.
2. Don't use tack cloth to remove sanding dust if you are using a water based product. Left behind oils can prevent good adhesion.
3. Flexible sanding sheets are the bomb dot com.
4. Contour sanding grips help with curves.
5. Use Extender in your water based products to extend open time.
6. Adding Floetrol to your paint helps your paint self level.
7. If you add Floetrol to a dark color paint, expect the color to lighten.
8. You can apply a water-based product over an oil based product if you wait at least 72 hours, or longer if it's humid.
9. You can tell your stain is dry if the odor is gone.
10. The most common cause for yellowing is tannin bleed through.
11. Oil-based polyurethane ambers.
12. Prolonged sunshine can cause paint or topcoats to yellow.
13. True milk paint comes in powdered form – mix it with very warm water.
14. When painting, keep the paint away from the ferrule.
15. To avoid contaminating your paint or poly products, pour a little amount into a cup or plate and paint from there so your brush never touches the main pot.
16. When removing old paint by sanding, test first for lead and wear a respirator.
17. Soy Gel encapsulates lead paint, so it's good to use when stripping older pieces.
18. Don't mix paints that are different in chemical makeup. Ex: Don't mix mineral based paints like Fusion Mineral with chalk-based paints like Annie Sloan.

19. Check the VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) of paint to determine the toxicity of the product. You can find the information in the SDS (Safety Data Sheet).
20. Mixed up milk paint that came originally as powder can be stored in the refrigerator for a couple of days (it doesn't last long because it doesn't have the preservatives other paints contain).
21. If you are sealing a piece for outside, be sure to seal all sides – top/bottom/sides
22. Don't use exterior paint inside because of the VOCs. Fumes can last for as long as six months and can be harmful to your health.
23. Grain filler works great to fill in scratches – easier and better than wood filler.
24. Number your drawers when removing, and don't leave them out too long. Sometimes humidity causes swelling.
25. Bag up and label your hardware when removing.
26. When using spray paint in the rattle can, be sure to read the can's instructions. There are specific rules about when you can apply a second coat to prevent bubbling.
27. Alkyd paint doesn't need a topcoat. Example of an alkyd – Benjamin Moore Advance
28. Using a tinted gray primer under red will help with coverage.
29. Many paint and hardware stores can electronically match colors from objects or swatches.

TECHNIQUES & METHODS

30. Use a folded up t-shirt (it's lint free) to apply wipe on poly and then just throw away when done.
31. Use a damp sponge to apply water based polycrylic.
32. When applying poly to a table top that is fairly wide, start applying the poly on the farthest part of the table away from you. That way you won't be leaning over poly you've already applied.
33. To help eliminate fuzzies and dust from messing with your finish while drying, apply topcoats after everyone goes to bed or in a shop area where no one walks by.
34. Remove dried on drips with a razor blade, not by sanding. Sand after it's removed to smooth it out.
35. Dip the tips of your brush in water or use a mist spray bottle while painting to lessen brush strokes and help your paint glide on better.

36. Sanding between coats helps keep your finish smooth.
37. Humidity and temperature can affect dry time.
38. Use Mineral Spirits to take off wax.
39. When you can't remove a drawer for painting, put a screw in the hardware holes backwards to be used as a pull so you can reposition the drawer, pulling it out just a bit to prevent it being painted shut and be able to paint the edges.
40. Soy Gel by Blue Bear stripper is made from soy beans – non-toxic and it works great.
41. Applying polycrylic in thick/heavy coats can cause yellowing.
42. If you want to make your stenciled design look aged, sand lightly one way across the stencil until you achieve the look you want.
43. Don't press down when applying poly with a foam brush or sponge; you'll get bubbles.
44. If you get bubbles when applying poly, lightly brush over them with a dry brush.
45. If you disassemble your furniture during the prep process, label each part for easy assembly after painting.
46. Don't overwork your poly – you'll get streaks.
47. Use baby food containers with lids when you mix up your Durhams putty so it doesn't dry out during your repair work throughout the day. Durhams comes in powder form and you mix it with water, mixing just what you need.
48. Wadded up wax paper dipped in paint creates an interesting pattern.
49. Don't use a high grit for your last sand if you are staining – you need the grain open enough to allow the stain to soak in.
50. If warming up your work area during a cold spell, make sure the furniture itself is warm also, not just the air around, it before applying topcoat.
51. When spraying, light even coats are best and spray off of the piece each time so you don't get build up leading to drips at the end of the piece.

MARKETING

52. Naming your furniture helps keep track of each piece and helps your customers tell you which one they are interested in.

53. Always get a deposit on contract work or if you agree to hold a piece that's for sale.
54. Having a creative description in your listing helps the buyer envision it in their home.
55. Don't price with a zero at the end. Buyers are afraid of zeros.
56. Don't sell from your personal FB page – you could get shut down.
57. When taking your money shot, do a full body, level with the top straight on photo with a bit of “white space” around it.
58. Think in threes when using props on your piece for staging & vary heights.
59. Ignore low-ball offers and always be polite and professional if and when you respond.
60. Research your market to discover the best pricing and design elements.
61. To get attention on Facebook buy/sell/trade sites, delete and repost often.
62. If doing a price change, remove your listing for a few days and repost with the new price.
63. Buyers like to think they got a deal, so if you are open to offers, price your piece 10-20% higher for wiggle room.
64. Line drawers for a cleaner look. If you don't glue down your liner, buyers will be able to switch it out if they don't like it.
65. Send home a care tag with the buyer to prevent future issues with careless customers.
66. Use proper grammar, punctuation, complete sentences and spelling in your listings to maintain a professional appearance.
67. Remember to advise your buyers to bring blankets. If you want to help them wrap the item up, have shrink wrap on hand to secure the blankets.
68. If appropriate, send a small sample jar of the paint perchance the new owners need to touch up any damage while in their care.
69. Staging outside is fine if you have a nice area that will provide a good backdrop. Be sure to watch the background in your lens to frame it properly.
70. Watermark (add your logo or name) your photos – this keeps them safe from thieves and will get your name out there.
71. Remember when staging to take some shots that will work in a square for Instagram.

72. When staging, consider taking additional shots of your piece dressed up for the upcoming holiday so you can switch out pics easily in your listings.

73. Always answer rude inquiries online politely – others are watching and your response will affect your brand.

TOOLS & WORKSHOP TIPS, etc

74. Paint dried on your brush? Soak in fabric softener or hair conditioner overnight.

75. Use your stencil brush to clean off your stencil in the sink – cleans both at the same time and gives both a good scrubbing.

76. Nail brushes used under running water also do a great job of cleaning off stencils, especially the more delicate ones.

77. Be sure to super clean your sprayer – a few minutes now can eliminate tons of frustration later.

78. Cling On brushes are the most popular among flippers.

79. If you use a hammer to close your paint can lid – first lay a slat of wood over top and use your hammer on that to evenly close the lid lessening the chance of damaging the lid and letting air in.

80. Hang paint brushes while drying so the water seeps out of the ferrule (metal part of the brush that holds the bristles).

81. Save the glass jars from sauces and pickles, etc. and use to store paint. Many of the tin cans used to store paint from the manufacturer will rust.

82. Use shrink wrap around the tops of your glass jars to keep out air and keep the paint around the lid from drying out and flaking off into your paint.

83. Kneeling pads typically used in gardening will help save your knees.

84. Use a seat on casters to move around your piece as you work.

85. The flaps from cardboard boxes work great for under your piece as you paint. Paper plates work too. Use the rest of the box to lift your piece up higher.

86. Typical painters triangles can fall over – use bench cookies.

87. If you put your paintbrush in a baggie during a project, you won't have to wash it out each time.

88. To tighten up loose screws, add toothpicks to the hole and then add the screw.

89. 50 grit sandpaper is very course. 400 grit is fine. The grit goes from course to fine/low to high.
90. Before you agree to purchase a large piece from the previous owner, ask if it's on ground level (or be very good at using a dolly). Remember - safety first. It's not worth hurting yourself to get a good deal.
91. There is a difference between foam paint brushes – the cheaper brushes tend to create bubbles as you brush on poly. Look for the wood handled foam brushes. They will be a little more expensive, but are a much better product.
92. Buy sanders that have built in dust collector bags.
93. Use heavy duty drop cloths so you can just vacuum up any sanding dust.
94. Use bed risers to raise up your pieces with legs.
95. Don't use hot water to wash your synthetic brushes, they could curl, fray or melt.
96. Scrubs work great for paint clothes and they come in cute designs.
97. If not disposed of properly, rags covered in Boiled Linseed Oil (BLO) can combust.
98. Green scrubbies are great for getting in the details when stripping or using with the mineral spirits when cleaning it off.
99. Use bent brushes to paint hard to reach spots.
100. Use Zip Walls and plastic sheeting to create a big spray tent that you can move around and out of the way, or expand when needed.

I hope these are a help to you. I love helping other furniture flippers. Enjoy!

Val Frania

ValFrانيا.com

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