

Stain System	Characteristics
Dye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent clarity. • Colors the wood fibers. • Color is iridescent; it “flips from light to dark” as you move around. • Color saturation varies by the density of the wood. Lighter grain lines on maple. • Limited darkness due to semi-transparent nature of colorant. • Does not darken the pores of open grained woods. • Reduced blotchiness on woods like maple and cherry. • The least lightfast of all the staining processes.
Spay Only Stain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can use dyes and/or pigments as color base. • Even color saturation across the board. • Color sits a little more on the surface of the wood. • Clarity depends on the type of colorant and the amount of stain applied to the wood. • Can produce dark colors, but usually at the expense of clarity. • Does not darken the pores of open grained woods. • Reduced blotchiness on woods like maple and cherry. • If dye is used as a colorant, light fastness is decreased.
Wiping Stain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used primarily as pigments with some added dyes as color base. • Color saturation depends on wood’s density, sanding schedule, and wiping time. • Color can vary across the board. • Lower level of clarity due to the use of mostly pigments. • Color is not usually very vibrant; looks a little flat. • Can produce darker colors due to opaque nature of pigments. • Darkens the pores on open grained woods. • Produces blotches on woods like maple and cherry. • Generally more lightfast than dyes alone.
Glaze	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavily pigmented. • Usually applied over another stain or sealed wood. • Color uniformity depends on how much glaze is left on the surface. • Low level of clarity. • Color is usually opaque. • Darkens the pores of open grained woods. • Since it is usually applied over a washcoat, it does not normally produce blotches on maple and cherry. • Color sits on the wood’s surface.