

Explanatory notes.

An emulsion is a mixture of two liquids which do not normally mix. Furniture cream is an emulsion of a wax and turpentine solution, (the wax phase) and a soap and water solution (the water phase). The secret of success lies in the thorough mixing of the water phase into the wax phase **when both are at the same temperature.** Emulsions clean and polish in one operation and are easy to apply.

Beeswax melts at 63 degrees C (143-145 degrees F) so is one of the harder waxes. It binds into a soap and is by far the best wax for forming an emulsion. It gives a soft, satiny sheen to wood. It has however, a disadvantage of being just a bit tacky and needs 'elbow grease' to get the full advantage.

WAX RECIPES

EMULSION POLISH or FURNITURE CREAM

4.5 oz /125g Beeswax	500ml/1 pint solvent (the wax phase)
0.5oz/13g pure soap flakes	500 ml/1 pint water (the water phase)

METHOD

a) Wax Phase

Place wax in double pan until melted. Add solvent. Raise temperature to about 80 degrees C (180 degrees F)

b) Water Phase

In pan with a pouring lip, dissolve soap flakes by pouring hot water over. Adjust temperature to 80 degrees C. Remove from cooker. Pour wax phase into warmed plastic container (to avoid scorching your pan), Begin to stir. Use a hand-wisk gently or an electric mixer at slow speed (insert one paddle). Very slowly, pour the water phase into wax. Continue stirring for several minutes after a good emulsion forms. Pour into warmed bottles. Use a funnel to avoid spills.

REMEMBER

- Beeswax is highly inflammable so do be careful NOT to leave it unattended particularly using a gas cooker.
- Creams that have not been laboratory tested cannot be made for retail sale.

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