

Sandpaper Grits and Their Uses

The most commonly used sandpaper grits are 80, 120 and 220. In fact, you can likely get away with having only those three grits of sandpaper on hand for typical do-it-yourself projects. You could use 120 as a medium, do all the things sandpaper, 80 grit if you want to really rough up a finish or do a little shaping and 220 grit for final sanding between coats of paint or poly.

But if you want a little more flexibility, here is a fuller picture of the sandpaper grits and their uses.

24-26 Grit - 24-26 grit sandpaper is extra coarse. It works well for very fast removal of material, hardwood flooring initial sanding.

40-50 Grit - 40-50 grit sandpaper is fairly coarse. It is also good for the rapid removal of material.

60-80 Grit - Medium or 60-80 grit sandpaper is good for sanding bare wood in preparation for finishing and for the gentle removal of varnish.

100-120 Grit - Fine grit sandpaper of the 100-120 grit variety is best for sanding bare wood in preparation for finishing. It's not suitable for removing varnish or paint from wood though.

150-220 Grit - 150-220 grit sandpaper is very fine. It's used for sanding of bare wood and some sanding between coats.

240 Grit - 240 grit sandpaper is very fine and makes an excellent choice for sanding finishes between coats.

320-360 Grit - 320-360 grit sandpaper is extra fine. At this grit, you start the polishing of wood.

400-600 Grit - Super fine grit sandpaper is 400-600 grit. It's perfect for the final sanding of finishes and the final sanding of wood.

800-1000 Grit - 800-1000 grit sandpaper is ultra fine. It's used for final sanding and polishing of thick finishes.