



Grit Size In Wood Sanding

Selecting the appropriate sandpaper grit is essential for achieving the desired finish in woodworking projects. The grit number indicates the size of the abrasive particles; lower numbers denote coarser abrasives for material removal, while higher numbers represent finer abrasives for smoothing and finishing.

Common Sandpaper Grits and Their Applications:

Grit Range	Application
24-36	Extra Coarse: Used for initial sanding of rough lumber, removing heavy material, and leveling surfaces.
40-60	Coarse: Effective for removing old finishes, sanding rough wood, and shaping edges.
80-100	Medium: Suitable for smoothing surfaces after coarse sanding and preparing wood for finishing.
120-150	Fine: Ideal for sanding between finish coats and preparing wood for staining.
180-220	Very Fine: Used for final sanding before applying finishes, ensuring a smooth surface.
320-400	Extra Fine: Employed for polishing and achieving a high-gloss finish on wood surfaces.

Recommended Sanding Sequence for Woodworking:

1. **Initial Sanding:** Begin with 80 or 100 grit to remove roughness and imperfections.
2. **Intermediate Sanding:** Progress to 120 or 150 grit to smooth the surface.
3. **Final Sanding:** Conclude with 180 or 220 grit for a fine finish.

For projects requiring a high-gloss finish, consider using 320 or 400 grit sandpaper.

Always sand in the direction of the wood grain to minimize visible scratches. Additionally, ensure each sanding step removes the scratches from the previous grit before moving to a finer grit. This progression helps achieve a smooth and uniform surface, essential for quality woodworking finishes.

Note: The choice of grit may vary based on the wood type, project requirements, and desired finish.