FURNITURE FINISHER

ALSO KNOWN AS: FURNITURE POLISHER | FURNITURE RESTORER | WOOD FINISHER

TRANSFORM RAW OR WORN WOOD INTO STUNNING PIECES OF FUNCTIONAL ART AS A FURNITURE FINISHER.

Breathe new life into wooden surfaces, whether restoring antique treasures or putting the final touches on newly crafted pieces. In this role, you'll blend traditional techniques with modern finishing technologies, bridging the gap between craftsmanship and chemistry to create durable, beautiful surfaces that stand the test of time.

KEY SKILLS

Skills which may benefit anyone considering a job as a furniture finisher include:

- Attention to detail
- Manual dexterity
- Precision
- Problem solving
- Technical comprehension

VALUES & ATTRIBUTES

Values and attributes of anyone considering a job as a furniture finisher include:

- Patience
- Creative
- Precision
- Adaptable
- Quality-focused
- Investigative – "Thinker"

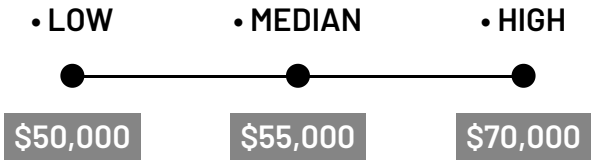
CAREER PROGRESSION

In this role, you may have the opportunity to progress to other positions. Career progression opportunities include:

- Upholsterer
- Textile Designer
- Industrial Designer
- Process Operator

SALARY EXPECTATION

The expected salary for a Furniture Finisher can vary across different areas of manufacturing and may vary as you become more experienced.



RELATED INDUSTRIES

▸ Furniture and Other Products ▸ Timber and Wood

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUBJECTS

- Building and Construction Skills
- Engineering Skills
- Industrial Graphics Skills

CORE SCHOOL SUBJECTS

- General Mathematics
- Essential English
- Furnishing Skills

Copyright © Manufacturing Skills Queensland 2026

JOB OVERVIEW

In a world where mass-produced furniture often lacks character, furniture finishers stand as the guardians of quality and craftsmanship. These skilled artisans breathe new life into wooden surfaces, whether restoring antique treasures or putting the final touches on newly crafted pieces.

In this role, you will work with a variety of tools and materials, including sanders, spray guns, brushes, stains, varnishes, and lacquers. You must have an intimate knowledge of different wood types and finishes, understanding how each interacts to create the desired effect. Your workspace will often be a well-ventilated workshop filled with the rich scents of wood and finishing products.

The role of a furniture finisher extends beyond mere application of finishes. In this position, you will often be consulted on colour trends, durability requirements, and environmental considerations. Your expertise can influence the entire furniture production process, from wood selection to final delivery, ensuring that each piece not only looks beautiful but also meets the functional needs of its users. In an era of increasing environmental awareness, you will be at the forefront of adopting eco-friendly finishes and sustainable practices, contributing to a greener future in the furniture industry.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

In this role, your duties may include:

1. Prepare surfaces for work including finishing by sanding, cleaning, and applying base coats
2. Mix and match colours to achieve desired shades and effects
3. Apply finishes using various techniques such as spraying, brushing, or hand-rubbing
4. Repair and restore damaged or worn furniture surfaces
5. Maintain and clean finishing equipment and work areas

HOW TO BECOME A FURNITURE FINISHER

Becoming a furniture finisher typically requires a combination of education and practical experience. To become a furniture finisher, it can be advantageous to complete an apprenticeship.

1. If you are at school, you may be able to complete a Certificate II in Furniture Making Pathways (MSF20522) or Certificate II in Furnishing (MSF20122). This will give you a good introduction to the occupation.
2. If you have an interest in becoming a furniture finisher you can apply directly to an employer.
3. Research potential employers in your area via a search engine, social media or job site. Even if there are no jobs advertised with the employer you're interested in, it can be a good idea to send a cover letter with your resume expressing your interest.

Copyright © Manufacturing Skills Queensland 2026

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

An apprenticeship is the best way to gain employment as a furniture finisher. You can undertake the following qualifications as apprenticeships:

- Certificate III in Furniture Finishing (MSF30122)

As an apprentice you will combine work with formal training, allowing you to gain practical skills and knowledge in a specific trade while earning a salary.

Duration: Apprenticeships typically last up to 4 years for full-time participants. Part-time apprenticeships may take longer, depending on the individual's work schedule and training progress.

Work and study combination: As an apprentice, you will work either full-time or part-time while receiving formal training from a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). School-based apprenticeships may be available.

Eligibility: Generally, apprenticeships do not require any formal qualifications to enter, making them accessible to a wide range of individuals, including if you are a school leaver or someone looking to change careers. There are minimum age requirements and there may be other eligibility criteria.

Completion: On completion you will receive a nationally recognised trade qualification, showcasing your skill and experience.

Skills, qualifications, accreditations and licences

A furniture finisher may choose to pursue other training or certifications, licences and tickets. Qualifications and skills may be required to progress to supervisor or team leader positions.

Qualifications that may help you progress in this role include:

- Certificate IV in Furniture Design and Manufacturing (MSF40222)
- Diploma of Furniture Design and Manufacturing (MSF50322)

UNIVERSITY & HIGHER EDUCATION

Holding a degree in manufacturing, human resources, finance, economics, marketing or management can be helpful if you are considering taking a step into leadership or a business ownership position.

Copyright © Manufacturing Skills Queensland 2026