



Polycrylic vs Polyurethane

Feature	Polycrylic	Polyurethane (Oil-Based & Water-Based)
Base	Water-based	Oil-Based or Water-based
Color/Clarity	Dries clear, no yellowing	Oil-based: warm amber tone, yellows over time Water-based: clear, minimal yellowing
Finish Options	Satin, Semi-Gloss, Gloss	Matte, Satin, Semi-Gloss, Gloss
Dry Time	1-2 hrs between coats	Oil-based: 8-24 hrs Water-based: 2-4 hrs
Durability	Moderate – best for furniture, trim, crafts	Very durable – great for floors, tabletops, heavy-use surfaces
Protection	Resists scratches, but less tough	Strong resistance to scratches, water, and heat (oil-based especially)
Best For	Indoor projects, light-colored paints/stains, decorative pieces	High-traffic areas, tabletops, floors, kitchen/bath surfaces
Clean-Up	Soap & water	Oil-based: Mineral spirits Water-based: Soap & water
Odor	Low	Oil-based: Strong odor Water-based: Mild odor
Pros	Quick dry, clear finish, easy clean-up, low odor	Extremely durable, long-lasting, excellent protection
Cons	Not as tough, not ideal for heavy use or outdoors	Extremely durable, long-lasting, excellent protection