

It is becoming very popular to use salvaged/reclaimed wood in DIY projects for a beautiful and rustic look. Just because you're using "old" wood, though, doesn't mean it can't be clean and sanitary. Today we show you how to clean that salvaged wood before using it.

Method

1. If your wood has spent time outside, chances are there might be excessive dust, mud or even bugs on it. Start by properly spraying it with your garden hose and let it dry.
2. Give your wood a good sanding. If it is covered with a thick coat of paint or varnish, you might want to use a stripper before doing this. Follow the instructions on the packaging of the stripper for the best finish.
3. To get rid of the wood dust and to further ensure the cleanliness of your wood, give it a proper scrub with warm soapy water. Do this in a clean space to avoid getting it dirty again. Once again, let it dry.
4. If you have a steam machine or even a steam iron, give your wood a good steaming. This step isn't very necessary, but helps give you peace of mind that the wood is completely sanitary. Be sure to only steam the wood and not burn it with the iron.