

Sandpaper Facts ...

What's this "Grit" thing?

A sandpaper sheet is covered with glass, aluminum oxide, silicon carbide, or other special sanding granules called **grit**.

The correct sandpaper is determined by the abrasiveness of the grit, the adhesive to the backing, and the type and size of the grit.

To sand, begin with a medium to course grade of paper and change the grade to a finer one as the job progresses.

The size of the grit is referred to by a number ---- **the lower the number, the courser the grade of grit.**

A universal grit chart follows:

<u>Grit Size Grade</u>	
40-60	Course
80-100	Medium Course
120-150	Medium
180-200	Fine
240+	Very Fine

Sandpaper 101

What is grit?

When talking about sandpaper "grit" is a reference to the number of abrasive particles per inch of sandpaper. The lower the grit the rougher the sandpaper and conversely, the higher the grit number the smoother the sandpaper. This make sense if you imagine how small the particles on an 800-grit sandpaper would need to be to fit into a 1" square. Sandpaper is referred to by the size of its grit (i.e. 150-grit sandpaper).

What's grit sandpaper should I use?

The grit you use depends on what you are trying to do.

Grit	Common Name	Uses
40-60	Coarse	Heavy sanding and stripping, roughing up the surface.
80-120	Medium	Smoothing of the surface, removing smaller imperfections and marks. 1
150-180	Fine	Final sanding pass before finishing the wood
220-240	Very	Fine Sanding between coats of stain or sealer.
280-320	Extra Fine	Removing dust spots or marks between finish coats
360-600	Super Fine	Fine sanding of the finish to remove some luster or surface blemishes and scratches.

More --- too much ... about Sandpaper

A Range of Sandpaper Grits / Grades: While you can find scores of differently graded sandpaper available, you will probably only use a small handful of grades

#50-#30: Very Coarse Grit: Rips off peeling paint and extraneous materials with ease. Also risks damaging your project. Not recommending for fine pieces such as trim or furniture.

#80-#60: Medium Grit: Your universal grades of sandpaper. It's hard to go wrong with sandpaper grits in this range. You can work down difficult materials by applying more elbow grease to the job. Or, you can preserve fine materials by letting up on the pressure.

#180-#100: Fine: You would never use these grades of sandpaper on the first run-though. Grits in this range are always - and I mean *always* used for second or third sandings. Sometimes, fine grit sandpaper is used to "roughen" down glossy paint in preparation for applying another coat of paint.

Sanding methods: The common approach to sanding is to begin with a lower grit paper, or coarser paper, and increase the fineness of the sandpaper until desired results are achieved.

Wood: Always sand in the direction of the wood grain. Typically 100 grit or 120 grit is recommended to remove or smooth out any paint or dirt on the surface being addressed. A final pass with 220 grit to 360 grit will create a sufficiently smooth surface for painting, staining and varnishing.

Metal: Begin with loosening and scraping any loose paint or rust with a metal-toothed brush or coarse steel wool. Starting with a coarse grade of sandpaper move regularly over surface. Continue in this manner with increasingly finer grades of sandpaper until sufficient level of desired smoothness.