HomeAdvisor

How to Use a Sander

Using a sander can be simple or tricky. Depending on the size and complexity of your project, you may require the help of an expert. Use this guide to help you decide whether you'll DIY or hire a guy.

DIY *or* **Hire a Guy**

DIY | Hire

DIFFICULTY ▮▮

COST ▮▮▮▮▮▮

TIME ▮▮

Materials Required:

- Material to sand
- Sandpaper: coarse or fine
- Heavy duty, all-purpose cleaner
- Rags

- Safety glasses
- Gloves
- Sander: hand, orbital and/or belt

Steps:

1. Choose the best sander for your project. A hand sander is a good choice for small projects like fixing up a piece of furniture, but you'll need an orbital or belt sander for large projects like refinishing a wood floor.

2. Select sandpaper with a texture appropriate for the surface you're sanding. You'll want a coarse grain for demanding projects like removing the finish from a wood floor. A fine grain is appropriate for smoothing surfaces with less varnish or stain.

3. Start sanding. Going with the grain and using a circular motion, start your sander at one end of your material and work slowly and carefully to the other end. Make sure that you don't miss any areas or stay in one spot too long.

HomeAdvisor Tip: Start the sander on the material. Don't turn it on, then start to sand.