

SAGE. Lifestyle

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Indoor Furniture Care Instructions

Oak & Other Solid Furniture

As a natural product Timber will expand and contract with changes in temperature and humidity. This movement can cause cracks to appear on the surface and joins. These are part of the character of timber furniture and are not a fault. To reduce this natural movement and minimize environmentally inspired damage do not position furniture in full sun, heavily air-conditioned or heated areas. High humidity can also cause movement in the wood.

This natural feature of solid wood is a reason that quality furniture manufacturers and the best of Mid-Century design have used real wood veneers (not to be confused with paper or synthetic veneers) on large flat surfaces such as tabletops so they are more stable and warp resistant.

General Maintenance:

- Always use placements for hot dishes and everyday serving dishes.
- Do not place wet items (including glasses with condensation) directly onto wooden furniture as it can mark the surface.
- Always wipe spills as they occur.
- Frequent dusting removes airborne deposits that build up in a filmy layer that can scratch the surface. Use a damp cloth weekly to remove dust and grime (warm water & a mild detergent if required). Wipe off any detergent with a clean damp cloth and always wipe dry thereafter.
- Avoid direct sunlight.
- Never use all-purpose cleaning sprays unless they are specifically for wooden furniture. Check the product instructions to ensure it is suitable for your furniture.
- Furniture Wax provides a hard finish and long-lasting protection, does not smear, and is more durable than sprays or polishes.
- Use paste wax or liquid wax made specifically for furniture. Depending on use, paste wax finishes may last as long as two years. Liquid wax is easier to apply but leaves a thinner coating; it may need to be applied more frequently than paste wax. We do not recommend waxes be applied to our Plantation Teak.

- Learn how to properly apply waxes to eliminate streaks or a cloudy appearance. Always apply wax in light coats, rubbing into the surface with the grain. Allow to dry and buff to a clear shine with a soft cloth.
- Always test any product in a small area prior to applying to your furniture.
- Carefully read the instructions on any cleaning product you buy to make sure it is suitable for your furniture, and you are clear on the best way to apply it. If in doubt, seek professional assistance.

Oak Maintenance:

- As above but use a quality Danish oil every 6 months or so (more frequently if higher usage) to rehydrate the wood.

Teak Maintenance:

- As above (also see Outdoor Furniture Care)
- Teak should not grey off indoors
- We prefer teak sealers over teak oils if either are required to rejuvenate the furniture. A quality sealer (we use the Semco marine teak product) has advantages in that it:
 - Will not deplete the natural wood oils in the Teak.
 - Carries no risk of encouraging mildew or fungus growth.
 - Does not make the surface of the wood oily; and
 - Provides protection for longer. Ideally depending on usage, you should only have to seal the Teak every 12 – 18 months.

Timber Veneer

- Spills should be immediately wiped up with a damp cloth.
- Dust regularly with a slightly damp, soft, lint-free cloth and then wipe dry with a dry, soft cloth in the direction of the wood grain.
- Once a month – Clean the surface with a soft cloth dampened with a quality cleaner formulated for wood furniture.
 - Wipe the surface in the direction of the wood grain to remove dirt and fingerprints. – Wipe dry with a clean, dry cloth.
- Twice a year – Apply an excellent quality furniture polish with a soft cloth. Do not use aerosol-powered cleaners or polishes.
- To reduce the risk of damage, take precautions: Use coasters for glasses and mugs. If a glass top is added to the veneer surface, be sure it rests on felt pads. Do not place a potted plant on a veneer surface unless it is in a water-tight container or in a drip tray. Use protective pads under equipment with “rubber” cushioning feet.
- Objects should be lifted instead of dragged across a surface. Protective pads should be used under items with a rough bottom, like pottery. Denting, caused by extreme pen pressure when writing, can also damage veneer. Use desk pads or other protection where paperwork is done.

- Sunlight can damage veneers as well, so veneer surfaces should not be in direct sunlight. To help a surface age evenly, users can periodically move items on their desks and tables so that the entire surface is exposed to an even amount of light over time. In addition to light, extremely high or low humidity is a damaging environmental factor.
- Carefully read the instructions on any cleaning product you buy to ensure it is appropriate for your furniture and you are clear on how to apply it. If in doubt, seek professional assistance.
- Always test any care or cleaning product in a small area prior to applying to your furniture.

Danish Cord

- Wipe using a damp cloth tightly wrung out with a neutral colorless soap solution. We do not advise doing this too often as it can wear the paper cord unnecessarily.
- The paper cord is treated with a thin layer of wax which helps to prevent stains. Discoloration of the paper cord may, however, result from spillages of strong liquids, for example red wine, fruit juice or strongly colored food.
 - The best thing to do is to remove as much of the fluid as possible with a tightly wrung-out soft cloth. Be careful not to rub the liquid into the paper cord, but just carefully blot the affected area.
- Never use washing-up liquid on the cord.

Leather

- Wipe the leather furniture down regularly with a clean, dry cloth. The basic care routine for leather upholstery is simply wiping the furniture down with a dry cotton cloth. This will remove dust from the leather and keep it looking its best.
- Vacuum dust and debris from the furniture's crevices. Just as with any other piece of upholstered furniture, the best way to remove the dust and debris that gradually builds up in crevices and under cushions is by using your vacuum's hose attachment. Do not dig into the leather with attachment. Take appropriate care.
- Clean spills immediately with a dry cloth. Use a dry cloth or sponge to absorb as much of the spilled liquid as possible, only resorting to a moistened cloth if necessary. Use as little water as possible to clean the spill and wipe the area dry afterwards.
- Avoid soaking the leather in water or soap.
- Apply a quality leather conditioner regularly. The most notable difference between caring for leather versus fabric upholstery is the need to condition the leather. Leather conditioners are products that have a creamy consistency and are designed to be buffed into leather. Conditioning the leather regularly keeps it from drying out and developing cracks.
- Do not use cleaning products that are not designed for leather.
- Keep leather furniture out of direct sunlight. Intense, direct sunlight can cause the leather to dry out and fade in color.

Synthetic Leather/PU

- Dust Pu (polyurethane leather) weekly with a microfiber cloth. A thick, woven microfiber cloth should attract dust and remove build up.
- Soak up stains immediately with a dry cloth. Polyurethane faux leather is water resistant, but it is also a breathable material. Stains can get stuck in the material's pores.
- Make a soap and warm water solution using a mild liquid detergent. Wipe the fabric gently with a non-abrasive sponge, until all the visible dirt is removed.
- Remove tough stains by spraying with a light alcohol-based all-purpose cleaner. Check the product instructions to ensure it is appropriate for your furniture and you are clear on how to apply it.
- Rinse the faux leather thoroughly using warm water and a clean, non-soapy sponge. Make sure to get in the crevices of furniture or embossed faux leather so that soap suds or dirt do not get lodged in small cracks or folds.

Indoor Upholstery

- Vacuum your upholstered furniture weekly for general cleaning and to remove surface soil. This also prevents dirt from becoming embedded into the fibers.
- Blot any spills immediately with a clean folded towel: never rub, but blot gently. Sometimes this is enough to get rid of the stain completely.
- Too much sun can damage your upholstery fabric, causing it to fade and even fray. Try to position it so that it does not sit in the sun for extended periods of time. This is especially true for silks or other delicate fabrics.
- Airborne pollutants such as fumes from cooking or smoke can also harm your fabric. It is not always easy to avoid that from happening; however, proper ventilation can help. It can also help with odor control, as upholstered furniture can easily absorb odors.
- You may wish to apply a fabric protector such as Scotch Guard for added protection. We recommend having this applied professionally and having the Upholstery professionally cleaned every 18 months depending on usage.
- We can arrange for fabric protection to be applied prior to delivery. Please call us to discuss.

