

The Complete Guide to Long Lasting Timber Furniture



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12 Simple Furniture Care Tips for Long Lasting Timber Furniture

Proper timber furniture care is essential if you want it to last, with some good information and the right furniture care products, fine wood furniture can really last for many years.

Below are some valuable care tips and suggestions for products that will help you to get the most life and enjoyment out of your timber furniture.

- (1) Do not place drink glasses, jugs or vases etc on the furniture's surface without a coaster or place mat to protect it.
- (2) Never put hot, pots, pans, dishes, cups or mugs on wood furniture, always use place mats, coasters or heat proof pads to protect the surface. Heat marks and damage can be very difficult to remove and usually require a professional restorer to repair.
- (3) Always keep coasters handy to prevent water rings.
- (4) Keep wood furniture dry. If wood gets really wet for too long it can cause damage to the finish and actually warp the wood.
- (5) Be sure to clean up any spills as soon as they occur. Using a blotting action rather than wiping is a better solution. Do not let spills dry or you could end up with a permanent stain.
- (6) Never use any type of cover that has a rubber, plastic or vinyl backing on wood furniture, many of these materials have chemicals in them that can react with the wood's finish and cause major damage.

Potpourri kills furniture, believe it or not, potpourri (just about any kind) will eat the finish off of furniture even if it's still in a plastic bag! Don't ever put it directly on any finished piece, whether it's in a cloth or a plastic bag.

- (7) When burning candles, it's advisable to use a felt protector with a plastic top. Candle wax will not run as much when it makes contact with plastic.

If candle wax does happen to drop onto the wood surface wait until the wax has cooled and hardened before trying to remove it.

For best results apply an ice cube onto the spilt wax until it goes hard and brittle then get an old credit card or smooth plastic spatula and gently scrape the wax off the surface.

Once the candle wax is removed polish the area with a good quality beeswax polish and buff away any remaining residue.

- (8) Keep furniture out of direct sunlight. When furniture is exposed to the sun for long periods of time it's possible for the furniture to fade and age prematurely.

You may want to close the curtains or blinds during certain parts of the day to keep the direct sunlight off.

- (9) If possible try to avoid extreme changes in temperature. Always arrange furniture away from radiators and air conditioning units.
- (10) Dust your furniture regularly to keep the surface clean. Always use pure cotton polishing cloth to avoid scratching and use a good quality, silicone free and petro-chemical free furniture polish for excellent long term wood furniture care.

Ask your Stockist how to select the right furniture polish or Furniture Touch Up Pen

- (11) DANGER: Never do your nails on any painted, finished or stained furniture.

Nail polish and especially nail polish remover will strip the finish right down to the wood. Please don't think that putting down newspaper will eliminate the problem, it will not.

As a matter of fact the newspaper will probably glue itself to the top of the furniture creating just as big a problem as the nail polish falling straight onto the bare surface.

- (12) Minor scratches and dents can often be removed by using furniture touch up products.

Avoid Damaging and Destroying Your Furniture by Learning How To Handle and Move It Safely and Correctly!!

In addition to using furniture wisely, it is important to handle it carefully. Safe handling and moving of furniture begin with a basic understanding of how a piece is constructed. The second step is to plan carefully.

General Concerns

Before picking up a piece of furniture, determine how it is put together and if any of its parts are removable or detachable. Make sure you know where the furniture is its strongest - generally along a major horizontal element - and try to carry it from these points.

Then examine the room and the route whereby the furniture is to be moved. Look around to make sure you know where everything is. Identify potential trouble. Light fixtures that hang low, for examples, or that extend out from the wall may be damaged or cause damage. Glass table tops are also easily damaged if bumped. If necessary, clear the way by moving or removing fragile or obstructive items. Protect the furniture to be moved with soft padding or wrap it in a blanket pad. Padding, which will provide extra insurance against bumping and gouging, is especially important if an item is going into storage.

Before moving an item, make sure you know exactly where it is going next. Plan ahead to adjust the temperature and relative humidity in the new location so they are the same as where the furniture presently is. Extreme changes in temperature and humidity can cause splitting of joints and veneers.

Never hurry when you are moving furniture. Scratches, dents, and gouges from bumps against hand truck, doorways, and other furniture are always more likely in haste. Each item needs to be approached individually, without haste, and with sufficient manpower present.

Make sure you have a firm grip on the piece with both hands. Do not wear cotton gloves. It is essential that hands not slip from a piece of furniture while it is being moved.

Never slide or drag furniture along the floor. The vibration can loosen or break joints, chip feet, break legs, etc., to say nothing of what dragging does to the carpeting or finish on the floor. Whenever possible, use trolleys or dollies for transporting heavy pieces.

Handling valuable furnishings requires a special attitude: in general, movement should be carried out at a slower pace. Here are some quick tips for moving furniture properly. Remember: If you don't break it, it doesn't have to be fixed! Just as gymnasts work with "spotters" to catch them when they misstep, have helpers on hand to guide the movers so they don't crash into walls or other pieces of furniture

Anticipate trouble; think through every step; plan ahead; and do everything with care

Make sure the route is clear and has no obstructions, such as narrow doorways or hanging chandeliers that might hinder the safe passage of furniture and movers

The following sections offer suggestions for moving specific types of furniture.

Seating Furniture

When you're lifting a chair, remember that the seat rail is its strongest part, not the chair back. Frequently lifting by the back, especially the crest rail, will eventually result in breakage. For small chairs, lift by the side seat rails, one hand near the front on one side, the other near the rear on the other side.

When you're lifting a large chair or sofa, the principles are the same. Grab underneath the side frame, making sure to lift with your legs rather than your back. For upholstered chairs or sofas, place your hands underneath the frame to avoid touching the upholstery. If upholstery must be touched, use cotton gloves. For chairs with slip seats, remove the slip seat and wrap and move it separately to prevent its being soiled or falling out during the move.

Tables

The strongest part of a table is generally the apron. Whenever possible, lift the table carefully from the apron, never by the top or legs. Lifting on the top rather than the apron may break the glue-blocks that hold the top to the frame or strip out the screws that hold the top on. Grabbing the legs, particularly tables with long, unsupported legs, will cause unnecessary stress on the leg and the

joint connecting it to the apron. Whenever possible, wrap padding around a table's legs before moving it to prevent chipping or breakage during the move.

If you are moving a drop-leaf table, first determine which support members move. Is the table leaf supported by a bracket or by a swing-leg? Fold the leaves down, and restrain them with padding and a tie band. If the support is provided by a swing-leg or gate-leg, tie it in place as well. The only safe place to grab a drop-leaf table is underneath the end aprons. Grabbing by the legs, especially swing-legs, will increase the chance of damage to them, and grabbing the table by the side leaves will often result in fracturing the long rule joint that allows the leaves to drop.

Case Furniture

Case pieces, especially large ones, may appear very different from tables and chairs, the same rules apply. Never try to move a large piece by yourself. A case piece requires at least two people. While a case piece requires can be moved by carrying it carefully, holding on to the bottom as you would a table or chair, it is better to move the piece on a dolly. A dolly makes the move safer for both the movers and the object, and that is all the more true for large objects.

First, examine the piece to see how was is put together? And how can it come apart? Take the piece apart as much as is possible. That is, remove the top piece of a cabinet from its base; remove the cornice or pediment, if there is one.

If the carcass is sturdy enough, remove any drawers to lighten the load and make the move easier, I would also suggest that you get a small marking pen and number the draws inside so that they go back into the unit in the same order as they came out. Carry the drawers separately to the destination. However, if the carcass is weak and shifts from side-to-side, leave the drawers in place to provide stability and prevent further damage to the joints. Tall pieces that do not come apart into separate sections need to be set on their sides on a dolly to prevent their topping over.

If the piece has handles, wrap them with padding. Padding protects the handles, the furniture surface (if the handles have swinging bales or drops), the movers, and the surroundings in case you bump up against anything.

Never grab a heavy piece like a chest of drawers or bookcase by the cornice at the top. The attachment of the top to the base may be loosened and pull apart from the rest of the piece.

Lift the piece straight up, using your legs, not your back. Don't let it tilt, and do not grab it by its hardware or any other protrusions.

Large Clocks

Moving projects become increasingly difficult with objects that are large and complex. Objects that come apart into many pieces or are unwieldy require extra care and preparation. Because of their many parts grandfather and grandmother clocks are very difficult to move.

Always remove the pendulum and weights from within the clock before doing anything else. These pieces are heavy and will damage the clock case if they smash into the side of the case. They may also cause damage to the mechanism itself. Wear cotton gloves when you remove the pendulum and weights, to avoid corroding the metal pieces from skin contact.

Remove the hood from the top of the clock (they often slide forward), and lay it down to pack and move separately. Make sure the door to the case is locked or securely closed before moving the clock. Use bare hands, not gloves, for moving and packing the carcass of the case. For short moves, like those of only a few feet, it is permissible to lift by grabbing the narrow case from the underside of the moulding at the top of the waist, or centre portion of the case, provided that the moulding is firmly attached to the case itself. For longer moves, or if that moulding is not secure, the clock case should be carried flat like a coffin.

Information provided by www.furniturecareproducts.com.au

Furniture Polish

Everything You Need to Know about Selecting the Right Furniture Polish

With so many choices of furniture polishes available on the market today how do you know which one is right for you?

There are several factors to weigh up when deciding to use Furniture Polishes and Beeswax on furniture and other wooden objects. One critical factor is that the ingredients in commercial polishes and cleaning products are rarely disclosed. Moreover, these ingredients can be, and frequently are, changed without warning or notification. These ingredients may be harmless or harmful to the furniture (and to you) and you have no way of knowing in advance.

The first thing to look for is a natural beeswax furniture polish that contains natural ingredients, always steer clear of anything that contains silicon, gum turps or petro-chemical by-products, these types of polishes are most commonly found in supermarkets and hardware stores and should be avoided at all costs.

What are the problems with these ingredients?

Let me go through them one by one and I am sure you'll see why it's best to avoid them.

Furniture Polish containing these ingredients previously mentioned are hazardous, bad for your health and generally give poor results

Silicone

Silicone is put in furniture polish to make application easy and buffing off easy but if you ever need to have the piece of furniture you are polishing repaired or refinished it creates all sorts of problems for the repairer.

The repairer is unable to remove the silicone residue or film that's left on the surface which then causes the new lacquer being applied to bubble and not adhere to the surface as it is supposed to.

Long term use of silicone polishes on furniture can cause the lacquer on the surface to crack, split and break down.

Gum Turps

Gum turps is a common ingredient found in many beeswax polishes especially companies who produce old style traditional waxes.

This is an ingredient that is commonly used to keep the beeswax polish soft while still in the can and to make the wax dry when it's applied to the furniture's surface. The main problems associated with gum turps are: Toxicity, skin irritations and generally poor results.

Gum turps in wax makes it hard to apply and hard to remove and will always leave an oily, smeary finish.

Petro-Chemicals and Tolulene

These ingredients are most commonly found in aerosol furniture polishes and oils, as with gum turps they can create toxic fumes, skin irritations and give poor results.

Important Note:

Oil Based Furniture Polishes tend to attract dust rather than repel it. If you've ever used these types of furniture polish you might of noticed that after you have polished your furniture it looks great only to find a couple of days later that it looks as if you hadn't even done it.

The reason that happens is when the dust settles on the surface again it impregnates itself into the oily residue that's left behind after polishing.

Always look for a Furniture Polish or Beeswax Polish that leaves a smear free finish. We Recommend Inca™ Timberwax for best results available from most reputable furniture retailers.

Carnauba Wax

Carnauba wax is sometimes found in beeswax polishes but only use a polish that contains this ingredient if you are trying to get a high gloss finish on raw wood and is not overly useful on lacquered finishes as it can make a satin finish very patchy with shiny spots all over it.

Most furniture restorers and repairers recommend using a good quality beeswax furniture polish for the proper care of wood furniture.

Inca™ TimberWax Is a Premium Quality, High Performance, Easy to Use Beeswax Furniture Polish that Leaves No Streaks, Smears or Fingermarks And Contains No Petro-Chemicals, Gum Turps, Silicone or Carnauba.

How To Wax Furniture

Step 1: Waxing and Buffing

Once again we take the Inca™ Timberwax and the Inca™ Polishing Cloth, and rub in a small amount of wax using the circular motion, finishing with the grain. Keep rubbing the wax over the surface to make sure that it has spread in a thin even layer. The motto is “two thin layers are better than one thick layer,” then wait until the wax has dried. It will make a squeaking sound when you rub your finger on the surface. Do sections at a time and work all the surface legs, sides, tops and doors before you start to buff using a clean wax free cotton cloth. By cross grain buffing you will create a lovely lustre to the finished surface.

Please refer to the diagrams on how to make a bun and how to do leg and turned areas.

Diagram 1:

Making the cloth into a bun.

Fold the ends into the centre to form a pad.



Diagram 2:

How to use a cloth around turned leg areas.

Rap the cloth around the turned piece of wood. Cross the cloth over, pull each end and slide the cloth around the turned piece.



Pure Australian Beeswax Polish for Timber Furniture

Using Beeswax Furniture Polish for Cleaning, Maintaining and Protecting Timber Furniture has never been easier.

The Inca™ Timber Wax range contains a combination of the ancient protective properties of pure, disease free Australian beeswax and natural tree oils, with safe modern ingredients to not only clean and shine timber surfaces, but to also nourish and protect the timber furniture from today's environmental extremes.

Our Beeswax Polishes do not contain any Silicones, Hazardous Petro-Chemical By-Products or Gum Turpentine.

Inca Timberwax Leaves a Smooth Clean Finish with No Smears or Fingermarks.

There are 3 grades of wax in the range. Paste Wax. Liquid Wax. Spray Wax

Inca Paste Wax

Apply approx every 4 to 6 Months

Natural Paste:

Can be used on any colour furniture light or dark.

How to use:

- (1) Take a small amount of wax paste on a clean lint free cloth and rub in a circular motion along the length of the grain.
- (2) Allow the surface to dry completely. Then test if wax is dry by rubbing with your fingertips until a squeaking sound occurs
- (3) Buff off with another fresh clean lint free cloth finishing with length off the grain.

Always apply paste wax in thin coats for best results

Inca Cream Wax

Inca™ Liquid Cream Wax is an easy to apply and easy to buff general maintenance wax for timber furniture. It is recommended for large flat areas, carved and turned wood, handrails, kitchen doors and panels.

Available in 3 fresh scents. Eucalyptus, Lavender and Rose

Apply approx every 2 to 3 months

How to use:

- (1) Take a small amount of liquid cream wax on a lint free cloth and rub in a circular motion along the length of the grain.
- (2) Let the wax dry for about 20 minutes until it squeaks when rubbed across the surface with fingertips.
- (3) Buff off with another lint free cloth finishing with the length of the grain. Turn cloth regularly to avoid reapplying wax to the surface.

Inca Liquid Wax

This product was developed for a number of uses, as a cleaning product to remove old wax build up and the hand grime that appears around door handles, chair backs, wooden lounge arms, hand rails and cane furniture.

It also works extremely well on heavily carved ornate furniture and timber mirrors. This wax has thin consistency and dries clear it will not leave a wax residue in carvings.

How to use:

Shake bottle first and then apply directly onto the surface with a non abrasive white cotton cloth and spread along the length of the grain.

With a fresh clean cloth buff surface until dry.

Where there is no grain. eg: Cane furniture just wipe onto surface and spread with a cloth and allow to dry.

No buffing is required as the wax will dry clear.

Australian Made

Furniture Revivers

Furniture Revivers are excellent for putting some life back into furniture that is looking a bit "Tired" and "Dry" or has light surface scratching that has not broken through the lacquer.

Warning: There are many different "furniture revivers" on the market and it's important to make sure you choose the correct type as some are only suitable for dark wood furniture and some are OK for use on any colour wood furniture light or dark.

One of the best ways to remove light hazy surface scratching or to rejuvenate wood furniture is with a "0000" Superfine Grade steel wool and a furniture reviver.

Apply the reviver to the surface with the superfine 0000 grade steel wool and spread along the furniture going in the same direction as the grain, "never in a circular motion" always make sure the that surface and steel wool are well lubricated with reviver at all times.

If you are attempting to move light surface scratches rub the surface gently until you see the scratches disappear and then stop and buff off any excess reviver and give the furniture a polish with good quality beeswax. The same procedure applies when rejuvenating a "dull" or "tired" looking piece of furniture.

Handy Tip: Before starting any job test all products and procedures if possible in an inconspicuous area first, to make sure there are no adverse reactions then proceed with caution.

Never leave cloths or steel wool that have been in contact with revivers on the surface of your furniture after you've finished, as reactions and damage can occur in a very short space of time.

Polishing Cloths

2 per packet.

Use one for applying wax or oil and the other to buff to a shine.

Overlocked, soft non abrasive pure cotton cloth reduces scratching.

Timber Furniture Touch Ups

How many times have you looked at an annoying scratch or nick in a piece of your treasured furniture and wished there was an easy way to fix it... Or at least improve it's appearance in some way?

Well in many cases it can be done.

By using our furniture touch up pens you'll be able to do many minor repairs and touch ups on timber furniture yourself and get great results.

The most important thing to remember is... these types of products are only suitable for minor damage to furniture and not elaborate repairs, where it's best left to a qualified tradesman to carry out the job.

The best do it yourself furniture repair and touch up product that can be used for timber furniture is the Scratch Fix Pen

Scratch Fix Pens also known as Furniture Touch Up Pens are the easiest and most simple product to use for fixing minor nicks or scratches. They contain a quick drying oil based stain and you just apply the colour to the damaged area and wipe of excess stain with a cloth, apply a second coat if necessary.

Follow the instructions and you won't go wrong.



Handy Tip:

When using any furniture touch up or repair products always start with a colour that is as closely matched to your furniture as possible. A good rule of thumb is to start lighter and work up to darker if the exact colour is unavailable.

5 Reasons Why Inca™ Timberwax Outperforms the Competition Everytime

1. Every product in the Timberwax Range has been designed to make it as easy as possible for you to polish your furniture and to give you the best results possible.
2. Inca Timberwax leaves No Smears, No Smudges and No Fingerprints
3. All of our products have been Tested and Proven so that they perform at the highest standard
4. We source and use only the finest ingredients available which means, you are getting the best quality and purest wax available. No Silicones. No Petro-Chemicals. No Gum Turps
5. Our Polishes and Waxes are manufactured in Australia under strict Environmental Guidelines.

ACECROFT PTY LIMITED

Ph: 613 9544 0174 Fax: 613 9544 9569

Email: acecroft@acecroft.com.au

www.furniturecareproducts.com.au