

WOOD FURNITURE CARE

Care Recommendations

1. **Dust frequently.** The best cloth to use is soft cotton (or cotton blend) that has been washed several times to remove lint. Old diapers, T-shirts, flannel, or cheesecloth are some of the best. A damp clean cloth is all that is needed. Start in a different room each time for more uniform furniture care. Solid wood is like nature, please no chemicals (i.e. Windex) or polish; for cleaning, simply use a damp cloth only followed by a dry soft cloth.
2. **Clean spills immediately.** Blot the spill rather than wiping. Liquids and condensation can harm wood finishes and surfaces permanently.
3. **Avoid direct sunlight whenever possible.** If you cannot avoid direct sunlight, take care not to leave accessories like placemats, candles, vases, etc in one place for a week or longer. All wood color will change with sunlight and once you move accessories that have been left in place too long you may see color differences.
4. **Avoid extremes in room humidity.** Too high or too low humidity can cause wood to warp and/or split, or the glue used in applying veneers to loosen.
5. **Avoid extreme changes in temperature.** Arrange furniture away from radiators, registers, and air-conditioning units.
6. **Rotate your accessories.** Switch up accessories placed on the furniture so they do not sit in the same spot all of the time.
7. **Do not place plastic or rubber objects on a wood finish.** Their ingredients may react with those of the finish.
8. **Be protective.** Use pads, cloth, or felt to protect surface from plastics, rubber, hot dishes, beverages, book-ends, flower pots, and vases. With this in mind, we offer custom table pads for any size table top, simply call your salesperson. And use a protective pad when writing with a ball-point pen.
9. **Lift objects**—do not drag objects across the surface.

Solutions to Common Problems

Note: Some of these care tips are best performed by a trained technician.

- **Removing stains from glass:** Pour 3 parts vinegar and 1 part ammonia onto the stained area and let stand for 30 minutes to overnight, depending on the severity of the stain. Wash off with soap and water followed by glass cleaner.
- **Removing wet rings from a finished surface:** Clean the area with Murphy's oil soap and water; use terry cloth or a t-shirt and dampen it lightly with denatured alcohol. Pass the dampened cloth across the area, using light,

quick strokes. #0000 Steel wool and lemon oil or wool lube should remove white spots and rings from units that have a stain or dull sheen.

- **Waxy build-up:** Use a soft rag or #0000 steel wool.
- **Light scratches and scrapes:** Clean the surface with mineral spirits; lightly apply lacquer with a soft cloth in the direction of the grain; avoid over padding as this could cause the finish to dull.
- **Sticky drawers:** Rub Briwax or any other paste wax on the drawer and the wood it rides on.
- **Removing musty odor:** Use a spray bottle or denatured alcohol or another microbial spray. Allow drying for one week.
- **Surface scratches:** Use rubbing compound or buffing paste followed up with a cream polish.

Cleaning Different Wood Finishes

- **Polyurethane Finishes:**

These tend to be more water resistant than other finishes. To care for these finishes, simply wipe down with a damp cloth periodically, then wipe dry.
- **Shellac Finishes:**

These surfaces are very sensitive to water and can become sticky if exposed to an extremely humid environment. Because of this you should either dust or vacuum furniture with this finish, while avoiding oil or damp furniture polishes.
- **Painted Finishes:**

Painted wood furniture should only be cleaned with mild soap and water on a damp cloth, then immediately blotted dry.
- **Oil Finishes:**

Early on, lacquer finishes should be waxed once a year. As the piece ages, waxing is needed less often.
- **Conversion Varnish or Catalyzed Finish:**

If you have new furniture that was finished with a Conversion Varnish, also known as a Catalyzed Finish, there are a few things you need to know. This unique durable finish provides a dense wear surface that protects the wood surface against many enemies (nail polish remover, oil based paint, turpentine, alcohol, mustard, wine, solvents and many more food items and oils). Conversion Varnish delivers the best long-term quality finish for your solid wood products, hands down. The high solid content of Conversion Varnish offers a denser wear surface to protect the wood. The coating is extremely clear. The cross-linked, or catalyzed, film of the finish

actually creates a solid wall that not only resists moisture and chemicals but also holds them in place so they can be wiped up and cleaned thoroughly.

Important: When you receive our finished product, it is not 100% cured. Like cement, it is a hard, protective and ready to use right away, but complete hardening of the surface will not happen for 3 – 4 more weeks. Be extremely careful with the tops of the furniture for the 1st 30 days the product is in your home. Do NOT leave anything on the tabletop for an extended period of time in the same place. You can use the product, but the finish needs to cure and extra care must be taken during the first thirty days.

After 4 weeks of curing, the object should still be treated with care. Remember, just like the most durable automobile finish that gets keyed or scratched, the finish is not impenetrable. However, the conversion varnish / catalyzed finish it is the best, most durable finish available, and it protects your furniture from everyday spills and stains. Treat it like a fine piece of furniture that it is and use the correct products on it for care, and your furniture will look new for years to come.

Facts about Wood and Wood Grains

The “Fingerprints” of Trees

Like fingerprints, characteristic differences in color and grain are produced by nature in every tree. These variations create the beauty and interest found in fine woods. Since these differences in texture and grain do affect the finish, it is impossible to guarantee an exact match in finish between two pieces of furniture, even though identical finishing processes are applied. We hope you will appreciate and enjoy their singular beauty.



Knots

Knots

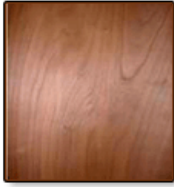
Most often associated with PINE, knots are again indigenous to the species. Knots are certainly to be expected in pine furniture and add to the warm casual look of this sturdy material.



Grain Markings

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Inherent in all woods, but most obvious in OAK, are grain markings. Variations in grain markings are as prevalent and natural as the differences in people’s complexions.



Black Cherry Wood

Black Cherry or Wild Cherry grows over the eastern half of the United States, primarily in the northeastern part of Pennsylvania. It is a crown tree, taller than most trees in the forest and, at maturity, will reach over 100 feet in height and a diameter of 36." The heartwood varies in color from a pale pine to a reddish brown; the larger the tree, the deeper the color at the heart. There is a distinct demarcation between the heartwood and the sapwood. The sapwood is a narrow ring of growth usually about one and one-half inches around the perimeter of the tree where the growth is actually taking place. Its color is a pale yellowish white. Birds are naturally attracted to the nutrients in the sapwood and peck into the wood causing a "cherry pitch mark," a naturally occurring blemish in the wood itself. Sap collects in the pockets and turns a dark brown color creating interest as contrasting darker areas. Another characteristic of cherry, but less often seen, is the "tiny pin knots" or, as we prefer to call them, "Beauty Marks." Cherry is one of the first trees to leaf out in the spring. Therefore, tiny sprigs will grow from the tree. As the foliage of the surrounding trees become denser, the sunlight is shut off from sprigs and they die, leaving a "Beauty Mark." Because of its choice properties cherry is considered one of the finest American cabinet woods.