

WOOD TREATMENT - GENERAL INFORMATION

If wood is properly treated and cared for, it can withstand exposure to rain, sleet, snow, and sunlight. Some kinds of outdoor furniture require more care than others. Cedar, chinese fir, oak, acacia, shorea balau and teak wood furniture are often chosen for their durability and ease of upkeep. Teak wood furniture has a natural resistance to decay and insects, while oak, chinese fir, shorea balau, acacia and cedar contain natural chemicals in the heart of the wood that make them tough and long-lasting.

The best time to treat outdoor furniture is during warm, dry weather, so plan your cleaning, oiling and refinishing for the late spring or summer.

General information

1. Clean your outdoor furniture with warm soapy water and a clean cloth. Rinse thoroughly and dry with a soft terrycloth towel. Allow your furniture to air dry completely for at least 24 hours before applying any sealers or oil.
2. Remove outdoor cooking soot from blackened wood furniture with a mixture of one cup of trisodium phosphate and one gallon of warm water. Scrub well with a soft bristled brush, rinsing afterwards with cool water.
3. Examine your furniture after it has dried for cracks and flaking; lightly sand any areas of deterioration with fine grade sandpaper. Treated wood should be stripped completely with a varnish remover before refinishing.
4. Oil wood once or twice yearly. Apply with a clean paintbrush and wipe off excess oil with a soft absorbent cloth.
5. Restore treated woods with a sealer that contains a mildew inhibitor and wood preservative. This will slow down the aging process and help keep mould at bay.
6. Replace any rusted hardware such as screws, fasteners and bolts to avoid staining the wood. Always use a silicone-based lubricant when oiling wheels or hinges, as those with oil bases will attract a grimy residue.
7. Protect your furniture by covering with vinyl furniture covers at night. During the winter, you may want to bring the wooden pieces indoors for storage. If this is not possible, cover it during the winter season with the vinyl covers.

Handy hint - For stained wood, apply a stain that contains a water-repellent preservative or apply a sealant after it is dry. For paint, make sure all the old paint has been removed before applying a new coat or staining.

CHINESE FIR and SHOREA BALAU

Chinese Fir and Shorea Balau will last for years and remain beautiful when properly cared for. The best way to protect it is to oil it regularly from the beginning (you can use teak oil for this) and to store it out of the elements during winter months when it is not in use. To keep your outdoor furniture looking good, follow these instructions:

1. Rinse untreated furniture with a garden hose to remove surface debris. Scrub with a soft-bristle brush and soapy water. Rinse to remove soap residue and allow the furniture to dry completely.
2. Sand the untreated wood lightly with fine-grain sandpaper. Rinse with a garden hose after sanding, to remove dust. Allow the furniture to dry completely.
3. Treat the wood with teak oil using a clean, lint-free cloth. Always apply teak oil in an open space. Allow the teak oil to absorb for 24 hours before applying sealants. Work the teak oil into the furniture by rubbing the rag in the direction of the wood grain, starting at the top and working your way to the bottom. Pour more teak oil onto the rag as needed, applying the oil all over the furniture, and allow to dry completely.
4. Apply a teak sealant to the untreated teak wood if desired. Application of teak sealant can increase the wood's lifespan and helps make it more mould resistant. Allow sealants to dry for 24 to 48 hours before using the furniture.
5. Protect your furniture by covering with vinyl furniture covers at night. During the winter, you may want to bring the wooden pieces indoors for storage. If this is not possible, cover them during the winter season with the vinyl covers.

Tip - Make sure to keep your wood furniture free of standing water. Don't leave pieces standing in water or let chairs fill with water during rainstorms.