

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.

OAK

Oak patio furniture can make a lovely addition to your lawn or garden. More attractive and longer-lasting than less expensive plastic patio furniture sets, outdoor oak furniture is a substantial investment that requires regular care to keep it looking its best. If you are committed to providing your outdoor oak furniture with the proper care and maintenance, your oak patio furniture can last for many years. When it comes to caring for outdoor oak furniture, the old adage "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is especially apt. To keep your outdoor oak furniture looking good, follow these instructions:

1. Treat your outdoor oak furniture with an exterior stain before use. For best results, use a penetrating stain product that contains a wood preservative, as well as an ingredient to help slow the growth of mildew. Apply the exterior stain to your outdoor oak furniture according to package directions.
2. Protect the legs of your outdoor oak furniture from water damage. Soak the bottom five inches of your oak furniture legs in a wood preservative product for up to six hours. Remove the furniture legs from the wood preservative after six hours and allow them to dry as indicated in the directions on the wood preservative product.
3. Clean dust, dirt, bird droppings and other grime from your outdoor oak furniture, as needed, with a sponge and warm, soapy water. Rinse your outdoor oak furniture with a garden hose and dry it thoroughly using a soft, clean towel.
4. Wipe down your outdoor oak furniture with a soft cloth dampened in teak or Danish oil. Apply the teak or Danish oil according to package instructions and allow the oil to soak into the wood. Repeat this step as indicated on the preservative product to help maintain your outdoor oak furniture.
5. Prevent your outdoor oak furniture from getting wet by covering it during inclement weather and when not in use. If your outdoor oak furniture gets wet, dry it with a soft, clean towel to prevent warping and other water damage. For best results, bring your outdoor oak furniture inside during the winter months. If this is not possible, cover it during the winter season with the vinyl covers. Cover your furniture properly. You should pull the cover tightly over every piece of furniture and then tuck it underneath the legs of all the chairs and tables to make sure moisture doesn't saturate into them.

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.