

PINE WOOD TREATMENT

Pine wood garden furniture can add a stylish touch to any backyard and is also famous for its defects. Knots and slight cracks ensure that each piece of furniture has a distinct feel. Although it may require a bit more maintenance, follow these simple instructions below to allow you to enjoy your garden furniture for many years to come.

If your pine wood has already been treated then you need only reapply the treatment annually, or as per the manufacturer's instructions.

If the pine wood has not been treated:

You will need to devote a fair amount of time and effort when staining pine furniture but you really need to apply a weatherproofing stain to prevent shrinkage, deterioration and cracking due to the weather. Pine is a soft wood. The cells of the wood absorb stain quickly; however, since it is a natural product, the cells absorb the stain at different rates.

Sanding

Start with bare wood using medium sandpaper, and proceed up to fine sandpaper until the surfaces are all smooth. Remove the dust leftover from the sanding process by wiping the wood with a tack-cloth or a cloth that has some mineral spirits on it.

Conditioning

Now you are ready to condition the wood. Stir your can of wood conditioner thoroughly. Apply the wood conditioner with a brush, roller or a lint-free cloth to the surface if it is completely clean and dry. Apply the conditioner across the grain of the wood. Saturate the wood with the conditioner. Allow oil-based conditioners to soak into the wood for 5 to 15 minutes and water-based conditioners to penetrate for 1 to 5 minutes. Remove the excess conditioner with a clean dry cloth following the grain of the wood.

For water based conditioners, sand the wood 15 to 30 minutes after the conditioner has dried as the conditioner may raise some grain during the process, and sanding will smooth this grain back down.

Staining

Please note: Use only oil-based stain following an oil-based conditioner and water-based stain after a water-based conditioner. Apply oil-based stain within two hours of conditioning the wood.

Apply the wood stain with the direction of the grain of the pine. Use a brush or a clean cloth. Give the oil-based stain 5 to 15 minutes to penetrate the wood; leave water-based stain on for no more than 3 minutes. The time will vary based on the look you are trying to achieve. For darker colours, leave the stain on longer. Take a clean cloth, and remove the excess stain. Wipe in the direction of the grain. Watch the wood as you proceed, and try to blend any light or dark spots. To make the colour darker or more intense, apply a second coat of oil-based stain after 4 to 6 hours; you can apply water-based stain after 2 hours.

Handy hint: For the best outcome, work through all these steps on a scrap piece of pine before staining the main piece of furniture

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. 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 that moisture does not 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.