

Maintenance & Care Instructions

Solid Timber Furniture & Table Tops with Oil/Wax (OSMO) Finish

Timber

Each piece of timber is unique. As such, the natural colour or grain variations will cause the timber to react differently to different finishes. It is not uncommon to find several contrasts in the same piece of furniture.

The lighter pieces were closer to the tree's bark, the darker pieces were closer to the tree's centre. Grain variations and mineral deposits should not be viewed as flaws.

These natural markings have absolutely no effect on the furniture's durability or structural integrity. Knots and other characteristics are much like the nubs you find in such fine fabrics as silk and linen - true indications of genuine quality.

Your furniture has been correctly coated with an oil finish to the manufacturer's specification and are automatically water and dirt resistant. However, the surfaces will need to be maintained on an on-going basis. The degree of maintenance depends on the degree of usage.

Damp cleaning (generally daily or weekly):

For frequent cleaning, we recommend using *EVO Wash + Care*, which is a pre-mixed solution. The solution contains soaps based on natural plant oils. The ingredients are water soluble and prevent streaking and layer build up. Especially mild on skin, the solution is biodegradable, and is free from dyes, solvents and emissions. The surface remains food safe. Use as often as required.

Rejuvenation (generally monthly or annually):

Should the furniture become faded or dull, after continual usage or incorrect maintenance over time, it may need some form of rejuvenation. This rejuvenation could be weekly, monthly or whenever it is considered necessary. In most cases, the use of *EVO Liquid Wax Cleaner* will be all that is required. Use the spray sparingly. Apply an even, thin coat over the whole area, and then buff the timber with a micro fibre cloth.

Stubborn stains:

- For Walnut or Oak timbers with a clear oil/wax finish, use a fine white Scotchbrite abrasive pad to remove. Alternatively, very fine grade steel wool could be used. Once the stain has been removed, apply a thin coat of wax cleaner and buff the timber.
- For Ash with a non-yellowing coating or a black finish as this finish, do not use any abrasives as this will remove the tinted coating. You will need to contact the manufacturer for repairs either on-site or back at the workshop.

For areas which are scratched or badly worn, the timber will need sanding to remove the scratches, and another coat of Oil/Wax applied. We recommend this level of maintenance is carried out by a professional.

Avoid:

Avoid chemical detergents

- Avoid using regular household or harsh chemical detergents, as these are designed to dissolve grease and oil, and over time, will break down the finished surface.
- Avoid using glass cleaner (like Windex) on any timber surface.
- Avoid using any Silicon based furniture polish (like Mr Sheen).

Avoid using water to clean timber surfaces.

- Timber should never get wet or soaked.
- Water can cause swelling, warping or staining when it penetrates a finish.
- Use coasters, pads, cloths or runners to protect against spills and water rings.

Avoid Direct Sunlight

- The ultraviolet rays of the sun will damage a finish and discolour the timber underneath.
- Prolonged exposure to sunlight can cause the finish to crack, sometimes in a pattern resembling the skin of an alligator.
- Try to keep furniture out of direct sunlight.
- When this is not possible, reduce the amount of light streaming on any piece of furniture.
- Use window shades, drapes or blinds to block light during the time of day the furniture is exposed.
- Uniformly expose surfaces to light.
- Especially avoid letting the sun hit only part of a surface.

Avoid Heat, Chemical Exposure, Sharp Objects

- Keep solvents such as nail polish remover, alcohol and paint thinner away from timber furniture because they can harm the finish.
- Alcohol is contained in colognes, perfumes and medications as well as in wine, beer and liquor.
- Fingerprints, perspiration and body oils can harm a finish over time, especially on chairs.
- Plants and flower nectar that touch the finish can also cause permanent stains.
- Placing hot items on furniture can cause a chemical change in the finish that result in white rings or spots.
- Products containing ammonia should never be used as it will harm your finish.
- We recommend the use of hot mats, coasters even though the finish is water and heat resistant.
- Do not leave plastic objects lying on wood surfaces.
- Colour from plastic tablecloths, appliance covers, wrappers, place mats and toys can leach into wood over time.
- Plastic can also stick to a finish, damaging it when it is pulled up.
- Firm writing on the finished surface may cause indentations to the finish/wood.
- Lift, don't slide, objects on wood.
- Place objects on trivets, tablecloths, doilies or others covers to protect the finish.
- Use felt bottoms on lamps and other decorative objects.
- Avoid brightly coloured felt because its colour could leach into the wood.

Watch the Humidity

- Timber is very sensitive to changes in relative humidity.
- As the weather changes, so does the relative humidity in your environment, and in the moisture content of the timber in your furniture.
- This means that furniture is constantly expanding and contracting.
- Timber does best in moderate conditions of around 21°C-22°C and a relative humidity of about 50-55%.
- Frequent and sudden changes in relative humidity are especially bad.
- Timber is most likely to crack when the climate inside suddenly changes from hot and humid to cool and dry.
- Use a humidifier in winter and an air conditioner in summer for best results.
- Furniture ages more quickly if stored in a basement, attic, garage or warehouse.
- Excess heat and dryness can cause timber to split and crack.
- Place furniture away from all heat sources, in front of radiators, heat runs or fireplaces, if possible.
- If you must put furniture near an air duct, use a shield or guard plate to direct heat away.