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# CARING FOR WOOD OR WOOD VENEER FURNITURE

Before getting into the basics of furniture care, you should understand what the common problems facing furniture are. Whether it be solid or Veneered wood it is a living natural product and as such needs some ongoing attention.

## **Humidity :**

If it is too low, wood or wood veneer can shrink as it loses moisture; If it is too high, wood or wood veneer will swell. Extremes in either direction can lead to cracking, splitting and warping.

## **Heat :**

Can create white spots in furniture finishes through chemical changes. Be very careful to keep hot items away from your wood surfaces.

## **Liquids :**

Be sure to always use coasters and immediately wipe away spills.

## **Sunlight :**

Considered when thinking of wood furniture, the Sun can fade some finishes with too much exposure.

Be sure to keep furniture well protected by moisturising (cleaning & polishing) it on a regular basis. If the item is in full or part sunlight, use drapes and blinds where necessary or introduce UV protection on windows. Dependent on just how much Sun an item gets will vary the number of times you should moisturise it. In general we recommend 4 time yearly, yet in high sun location this may need to be 6 or more times.

## **Cleaning & Dusting :**

Consider when caring for your wood furniture what kind of polish to use. A good polish protects the finish by providing a first line of defense against spills. It also enhances the natural sheen and luster of the wood and finish. We recommend Neopol furniture polish, as it has no silicon in it which makes it easier for a professional to work on in the future. Polish should be added 4 time per year.

Always dust before you polish. Wiping with cloths may leave small scratches on the surface.



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We suggest a feather duster or electrostatic dusting brush. Apply polish with a soft cloth, be sure to buff until completely dry for a nice shine. Use the same type of polish every time. If you alternate oil and water-based polishes, your finish will begin to look cloudy.

Never use soap and water on your furniture. The detergents in soap can damage the finish, but the water can also penetrate it and raise the grain of the wood. Another thing you should be sure to never do is use rubber or plastic mats on wood furniture. Most of these mats can soften or stain the finish. A good alternative, if you need to put something underneath an item on the wood surface use felt padding.

**General :**

If you keep in mind some of the challenges that face wood furniture, and follow the simple instructions above to keep it cleaned and protected, you will enjoy your investment for many years to come.

Lastly keep in mind that wood or wood veneer furniture can be repaired or completely re-finished by a professional if the worst is to happen.