

TEAK CARE & MAINTANANCE



Material Properties

Contrary to popular belief, teak furniture does not require any special maintenance routine or any additional protection apart from occasional cleaning. Left to weather naturally, the teak will turn from a golden-brown color to a light silvery grey as the pigments in the surface layer of the wood begin to fade away. This process will take from 6 months to 2 years, depending on the location, and the elements.

The teak wood is kiln-dried and then given finishes to enhance the grain and markings and become unique furniture with the pronounced grain. We recommend that you allow your teak furniture to weather naturally and simply clean thoroughly once or twice a year with either a water and mild detergent solution or with Teak Cleaner. Teak furniture may also benefit from an occasional light sanding to remove any raised grain and restore a smooth finish to the surface. Under no circumstances should a power washer be used to clean teak as this will erode the soft surface and leave it rough to the touch. Teak & Hardwood Shield once a year to give the best results.

To keep teak looking the same as it does when it is fresh out of the box, it should be sealed when new with Teak Protector. This will help to maintain the natural, brown color of fresh teak, without darkening the teak too much. The Teak Protector should be applied to furniture once a year. Because teak is a naturally oily wood, it is not possible to paint or varnish. Any finish will not adhere properly to the surface and after a short while will start to peel off. We do not recommend the use of teak oil or any other wood oil on teak that is to be used outdoors. Teak is already a naturally 'oily' wood and the addition of further oil does not add any additional protection. If oiled regularly, mildew can start form on the oils left on the surface and the teak will gradually turn black. This black coloration can then be removed with aggressive sanding.

The appearance of oil on the surface of teak furniture is a normal occurrence. The natural oils present in teak are what make it the best timber for outdoor and a high oil content is an indicator of high quality teak. Without these oils, the timber would not survive the extremes of temperature and humidity that outdoor furniture is normally exposed to. The oils and pigments within the surface layer of the teak will gradually start to be washed out during the first few exposures to rain. This is a perfectly natural occurrence and the bleeding will subside over time - around 2-3 months depending on the environment the furniture is placed in.

Avoid placing new teak furniture on light colored, porous stone patio surfaces until the bleeding process has subsided. Also, avoid leaving cushions that are covered in light colored fabrics on or near to teak furniture during

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wet weather for the first few months of exposure. The amount of oil that washes out of the teak in the first few months will be higher, and therefore more likely to cause staining of surfaces and fabrics. If cushions or fabrics do become stained by the oils in the teak, we recommend the use of our proprietary Upholstery Cleaner, or for more stubborn stains to use Murphy Oil Soap to clean the fabric.

Occasionally, wasps can be seen to attack and 'strip' the surface of teak. They do this to make their nests during the main nest building time of spring to early summer. Unfortunately, the softer part of the grain found on weathered teak outdoor furniture is often the perfect material for them. There is no way to prevent this happening other than to destroy the wasps and the nests.

Care & Maintenance

Cleaning with Teak Cleaner

1. Before using Teak Cleaner, eye protection and rubber gloves should be worn
2. Cover the ground under your working area before cleaning
3. Moisten the surface to be treated thoroughly with clean water beforehand
4. Spray the cleaner onto the wet stained area and let it soak in for 3 minutes
5. Remove any dirt and grease with the scrubbing pad supplied with the cleaner
6. Rinse the treated surface thoroughly with clean water and allow to air dry
7. Once dry, use Teak Protector to make the treated surface water repellent again

Protecting with Teak Protector

1. Before using Teak Protector, eye protection and rubber gloves should be worn
2. Cover the ground under your working area before cleaning
3. On new teak, first use Teak Cleaner to help remove the natural teak oils on the surface of the teak
4. On dirty or weathered teak, first use Teak Cleaner to remove all stains
5. Allow to dry completely
6. Shake the bottle of Teak Protector for at least one minute before use
7. Spray directly onto the surface in such a way that the surface is soaked completely and allow to dry for 4 hours
8. Repeat this application and allow to dry completely for 48 hours before further use
9. It is recommended that you repeat the treatment with the once a year (teak table tops twice a year)

Sealing with Teak Sealer

1. Before using Teak Sealer, eye protection and rubber gloves should be worn
2. Cover the ground under your working area before cleaning
3. On new teak, first use Teak Cleaner to help remove the natural teak oils on the surface of the teak
4. On dirty teak, first use Teak Cleaner to remove all stains
5. If the cleaned wood feels rough, sand lightly before treating
6. Make sure the wood is 100% dry and free of dust before application of sealer
7. Shake the bottle of Teak Sealer for at least one minute before use

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8. Try the sealer on a small invisible are first to judge if the color meets your expectations
9. Apply a very thin layer of protector evenly over the furniture with the cloth supplied
10. Apply a second thin coat of sealer after 30 minutes drying time
11. Re-treat your teak at least once a year

Do's and Don'ts of Teak Care

1. Do clean teak gently using water and mild detergent for regular cleaning
2. Do clean using cloth, sponge or soft brush
3. Do use Teak & Upholstery Cleaner once a year for best results
4. Do use the supplied abrasive paper to remove and surface scratches or marks that otherwise cannot be cleaned
5. Do always sand in the same direction as the timber grain, never across the timber grain
6. Don't use a pressure washer on teak furniture
7. Don't use stiff of wire brush, or steel wool; this may remove the softer part of the grain, and leave unwanted textured surface, and steel may stain the teak with rust spots
8. Don't use bleach as this will discolor the timber
9. Don't apply paints, oils, varnishes or stains other than Teak Sealer & Teak & Upholstery Protector