

# ARTLESS CARES



## SOLID WOOD CARE

Our solid wood pieces are hand finished with a natural oil rub. An oil rubbed finish is a more permeable and less intrusive method that allows the grain and natural tactility of wood to show thru. This approach creates a more direct connection between the user and the wood. Sealed and varnished wood is wrapped in a protective, artificial barrier, which limits and negates our engagement with the wood. We use solid wood, for its durability, beauty, and tactile qualities.

Our oil rubbed finish will allow the wood to behave and age naturally. This finish requires a bit more to maintain than if it was just wrapped in a varnish.

We believe our products age very well. This is a conscious decision, which is the primary reason why we work with solid woods. Solid woods, as opposed to veneers, absorb nicks and scratches, thus gathering mementos of its life and interactions with its owners.

Solid wood is affected by daylight and humidity. Please know that exposure to direct sunlight may cause color differences in the wood.

We advise against the use of cleaning agents, or other forms of chemicals, on any of our wood finishes.

## SOLID WOOD

We recommend cleaning with a damp cloth. Soap and water work fine, but soap will dry up the wood. We recommend using the Howard Feed-N-Wax Wood Polish & Conditioner provided in your ARTLESS CARES kit if the wood dries up. Use it often, it really is the only thing the wood needs to stay beautiful.

If water is left standing, spots can occur but should dissipate with the use of the Feed-N-Wax. This is all the maintenance the wood should ever need, and it will maintain the wood's natural luster and shine.

Depending on your home's environment and usage, we recommend using the Feed-N-Wax often. We use it around once a month, but as often as once a week. We stand behind this product after years of use and continued satisfaction.

Feed-N-Wax is a special blend of beeswax, carnauba wax, and orange oil. It enhances the natural beauty and depth of grain in all of ARTLESS' wood products.

## SPECIAL SOLID WOOD

If the wood has scratches or stains you just cannot live with, there is hope. Most scratches, stains or burn marks can be evened out by gently sanding the wood. Thus removing the very top layer.

Oiling wood is a bit laborious, but safe and risk free. We recommend you use Watco Danish Oil, Natural stain. Oil the wood as described below:

- First clean the entire piece thoroughly with a clean cloth tightly wrung out with clean hot water. Then leave the table to dry.
- It is important to sand the wood in the direction of the grain using a sanding sponge (grade 180) or fine sandpaper (grade 240 or 320).
- After sanding, always wipe the table with a clean, dry cloth to remove residual dust. Then oil the wood as described below.
- Apply the oil using a clean white cloth or a sponge. (do not pour the oil directly onto the wood)
- Apply the oil in the direction of the grain in a thin, even layer. It is important to treat the entire surface of the furniture piece.
- Allow the oil to dry for about two hours, and then remove any excess oil with a clean dry cloth.

The regular care and maintenance of oil treated wood furniture is easy, and very effective in the long term. For best results, we recommend that you oil your furniture once a year. But if properly cared for and maintained, you may never need to do it.

## OUTDOOR WOOD

In general, outdoor wood is more expensive than interior hardwoods. But this excess cost is justified by the lifespan of the wood, It's an investment, but beautiful enough to work indoors if you ever retire your outdoor space.

To clean outdoor furniture, you simply need to wash it with mild soap, water, with either a little bleach or vinegar mixed in. A soft plastic brush works as a gentle scrubbing agent if needed. If desired, oil the wood with Watco Teak Oil or boiled linseed oil every 3 months after a wash to preserve the rich brown color.

Using covers on your outdoor furniture will reduce how often you need to clean your furniture. Talk to us about getting a Sunbrella fabric cover for you furniture.

## LACQUER

Regularly maintaining lacquered surfaces is easy and straightforward. For everyday cleaning, wipe the tabletop with a soft cloth wrung out with clean lukewarm water. The lacquer finish seals the surface of the wood, the furniture will not be affected by daylight in the same way oil treated furniture is. However, the furniture will still darken a bit with time, and we recommend that you exercise care when positioning dishes, candlesticks, etc. on the surface.

Howard Wood Cleaner & Polish does a remarkable job at keeping lacquered pieces crisp and polished.

Howard Wood Cleaner & Polish is an advanced, vegetable-based formula that easily cleans away dirt and grime. The natural polishing oils enrich the patina and refresh the finish.



## STEEL CARE

Maintenance is required to maintain the quality and appearance of all ARTLESS steel products. A proper maintenance routine significantly prolongs the life of all our steel and stainless steel pieces.

We believe our products age very well, this is a conscious decision, which is the primary reason why we have chosen to work only with certain metals and finishes. We want your pieces to age gracefully and these are a few recommendations.

### STAINLESS STEEL

For ARTLESS Stainless steel products we recommend using a soft cloth and Weiman Stainless Steel Cleaner & Polish. It is excellent for removing dirt, residue, fingerprints, water spots and any other markings you may notice. This product provides a brilliant, streak-free shine without any hard rubbing. In addition to cleaning and polishing, it protects by leaving a shiny, protective barrier that resists fingerprints and repels dust and dirt. We feel Weiman is the best choice for your ARTLESS pieces after trying out a dozen or so options.

Polished surfaces can be re-polished using a polishing cream, our preferred product is MAAS polish.

### POWDER COATED STEEL

Powder coating steel products is a far superior alternative to painting or enameling steel. It is a dry "skin" of much thicker proportions than conventional paint that is baked on to the surface of the steel. We love it, its durability and resistance are unparalleled.

Products that have been powder coated should be cleaned with a soft brush or cloth, using mild soap and warm water.

### BLACKENED STEEL

ARTLESS Blackened Steel products are as artisanal as it gets. Every process of the finish is done by hand and applied in a way that makes every surface unique, irregular and unexpected. We don't want consistency; we want the unexpected within this finish. We have four blackened steel finishes and our favorite, the one we use the most, is called dirty and stained.

Blackened Steel products should be cleaned with a soft brush or cloth, using mild soap and warm water. To bring back the black luster of blackened steel, apply Jade Oil. We use Caribbean Solution Jade Oil.

## **PLATED STEEL**

ARTLESS plated steel products are finished with a clear powder coat. The powder coat finish prevents corrosion and rusting, while increasing the life span of a product considerably.

Powder coating metal products is a far superior alternative to painting or enameling them. It is a dry "skin" of much thicker proportions than conventional paint that is baked on to the surface of the metal. We love it, its durability and resistance is unparalleled.

Products that have been powder coated should be cleaned with a soft brush or cloth, using mild soap and warm water.

## **CHROME STEEL**

ARTLESS chromed steel chair bases should be cleaned using a soft cloth and the Weiman branded Stainless Steel Cleaner & Polish. It is excellent for removing dirt, residue, fingerprints, water spots and whatever other markings you may notice on your ARTLESS products.

This product provides a brilliant, streak-free shine without any hard rubbing. In addition to cleaning and polishing it protects by leaving a shiny, protective barrier that resists fingerprints and repels dust and dirt.



## UPHOLSTERY CARE

### ARTLESS FABRICS 2,3,4,5,6 CARE

Cleaning and maintaining upholstered seats and backs regularly is important to retain the appearance of the fabric, and to prolong its lifespan. With time, dust and dirt can cause furnishing fabrics to change color and exacerbate wear. It is therefore important to regularly maintain and clean your upholstered furniture. If your furniture has loose cushions, it is a good idea to turn the cushions around periodically to ensure they are exposed to uniform wear. Down-filled cushions should be fluffed and plumped up regularly to ensure that the down is equally distributed inside the cushion in order to maintain the shape of the cushion.

**We recommend that you vacuum upholstered furniture often, ideally every other week.**

**Treat stains promptly. The longer a stain remains on the textile, the more difficult it will be to remove. A professional furniture cleaning service is recommended.**

**Always pre-test any cleaning method in an inconspicuous area.**

**Several light applications of a cleaning agent are less harmful than a single concentrated application. Repeat stain treatment several times if necessary.**

**Never use heat to clean textiles, heat can set stains.**

**Do not use agents containing bleach. These agents may cause discoloration over time.**

**Do not over saturate the textile or let water pool in seams.**

### STAIN TREATMENT

Spot clean with mild, water-free dry cleaning solvent.

Soak up any excess moisture immediately.

For oil and water-based stains, use a clean, soft, white cloth, a natural sponge, or a nylon, soft-bristle brush with a water-free dry cleaning solvent. Brush the stain with light, quick strokes. Avoid a scrubbing motion and work from the edge of the stain toward the center.

For insoluble stains (e.g. chewing gum, candle wax, etc.), use a plastic bag filled with ice to rub the stain until the substance becomes brittle. Use a clean, dull, flat knife to gently remove the substance.

Extra care should be taken when cleaning dark colors to avoid creating light marks that can be caused by color transfer.

Avoid excess rubbing to prevent discoloration and damage to the face of the material. Do not saturate the surface. Allow the textile to dry thoroughly and vacuum before using.

## ARTLESS FABRICS 1: NATURALS

Our Natural fabrics as the name states, are 100% Natural in their composition and in their coloring. This makes them beautiful, nuanced and special in so many ways, but it also makes them more delicate. Not that they are delicate, but they will fade in the sun, they will expand a bit, and they are not stain resistant. Yet they will age with grace, and look broken in to. They will achieve a more Bohemian look with time.

ARTLESS Natural fabrics should be professionally cleaned every other year. In the meantime, they should be wiped with a clean dry or damp cloth or vacuumed with a soft brush.

In the case of spills, blot the liquid with an absorbent clean cloth before further cleaning.

Marks which do not contain fat should initially be removed by carefully dabbing them with a clean, non-fluffy cloth, or a sponge wrung out with warm water. Remove the stain working from the outer edge in toward the center. Grease stains can be removed with suitable stain removers. We always recommend that you test your upholstery fabric cleaner on an inconspicuous area before using it on the main part of the upholstery.

**Do not use excessive force when rubbing the fabric, as this can damage the fabric and cause loss of color.**

To avoid discolorations to the microfibers in the upholstery fabric, it is recommended that you dry the material with a hair-dryer after cleaning. It is important that the upholstery fabric is completely dry before you start using the furniture again.

Be careful with the use of solvents, since these can dissolve underlying upholstery materials. Furthermore, do not use undiluted detergents, bleaching agents, ammonia and soaps intended for hard surfaces on upholstery fabrics.

## ARTLESS FABRICS 2,6: VELVETS

ARTLESS Velvets and Aged Velvets should be wiped with a clean dry or damp cloth or vacuumed with a soft brush. If the velvet crushes you can easily bring it back up with steam, a residential fabric steamer will do the trick.

## OUTDOOR FABRICS

We only use Sunbrella outdoor fabrics as they are stain, water and mildew resistant. Sunbrella is perfect for outdoor use and really easy to clean.

Brush off any loose dirt and then spray the fabric with your garden hose. If you don't want to get everything wet, vacuum the fabric with an upholstery attachment to remove dirt and dust.

To remove stains we recommend a mix of 1/4 cup mild soap with a gallon of water. Use a brush or a sponge to lift the stain from the fabric and rinse thoroughly.

For tougher stains, mildew or to disinfect, it is safe to use bleach on Sunbrella.

**Solution: 1 Gallon Water      ¼ Cup Mild Soap    1 Cup Bleach**

Wet the entire surface and let the fabric sit for 15 min. With a soft-bristle brush or sponge scrub using the bleach-soap mix and rinse thoroughly with a garden hose to remove all soap residue.

You can also place Sunbrella in the washing machine. Remove the covers of your pillows and cushions. Clean using a delicate cycle with a normal amount of mild laundry detergent and a cup of bleach. Let the covers air dry.



## LEATHER CARE

We recommend that you do not place leather furniture in direct sunlight or close to a heat source.

Regularly vacuum your leather furniture with a soft brush, and avoid using detergents and sharp implements.

On a daily basis we recommend using a simple cloth to clean our leather from dust and natural smudges. Do not use any harsh chemicals or abrasives, as our leather is 100% natural leather.

On a monthly basis we recommend using **Howard's Leather Conditioner** (provided in your ARTLESS Cares Kit). It prevents drying, cracking, and overall deterioration of the leather. It is a neutral color conditioner which helps maintain the natural beauty and depth of our leathers. We stand behind this Howard product due to its results and ease of use. The conditioner penetrates, preserves, and protects smooth leather with a simple application. This unique blend of deep nourishing emollients, natural waxes, and mild cleaning agents revives dried-out leather back to its soft, natural condition without becoming greasy or sticky, which is a huge plus.

**Under no circumstances shall ARTLESS be liable for any incidental, consequential, or other damage resulting from negligence, misuse, mishandling, or exposure of any chemicals used in connection with maintenance. Information relating to chemicals/cleaning solvents, environmental use, and human exposure should be reviewed with appropriate suppliers.**