

## Caring for your Furniture

MAINTENANCE, CARE INSTRUCTIONS AND NOTICE OF HAND MADE PRODUCT

**IMPORTANT:** *PLEASE TAKE CARE TO READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY*

The hardwood tree *Tectona grandis* (in latin) or Teak is an exceptional material, notable for its durability and low maintenance, especially in outdoor situations. It is important to note however, that low maintenance does not equate to “no maintenance”.

We use two types of teak in the production of our outdoor furniture; new teak, harvested from sustainable legal government plantation sources, and reclaimed teak, sourced from old buildings.

Our teak furniture is handmade from a 100% natural product which is sanded or wire brushed, then polished prior to packing and delivery. *Every* single piece is unique with its own individual character and charisma, no two pieces being identical.

We do not use preservatives or treatments of any kind, nor are they required.

Below are a number of tips on caring for your teak furniture:

**RECLAIMED TEAK FURNITURE**

One of the characteristics of recycled wood are its imperfections, hinting at its use in an earlier life. These imperfections are intentional and include laminations, patches, holes, minor variations in hue, minor scratches, dents, minor cracks, knotholes, inserts or other characteristics typical of up-cycled teak wood. None of these characteristics will affect the life of the product, but they will make the product uniquely yours.



PATCHES & FINE CRACKS

PATCHES

PATCHES & DOWELS

If used outdoors, glue lines near joints and glue residue, especially near patches may become noticeable the first few times the product gets wet. This is to be expected and will fade within a short time. If you would like to manually remove the residue to speed up this process, a lightly sanding on smooth finished teak pieces or wire brushed on rustic pieces will quickly remove it.



GLUE LINE AT PATCH WHEN INITIALLY WET



GLUE LINE AT LAMINATION

Sometimes some oxidation will occur around the areas where there were once nails in the wood. These may cause dark spots. Again, these are a feature of recycled teak products.



GRAIN & COLOR VARIATION NAIL HOLES

NAIL HOLE OXIDISATION

NAIL HOLE OXIDISATION

### **GREYING & WEATHERING IN TEAK FURNITURE**

If you're planning to use the furniture outside, you can expect it to weather naturally to a beautiful silver-grey patina. Depending on how much sun and rain your teak furniture is exposed to, the color change should begin within a matter of weeks or months at the longest. During the weathering process you may notice a roughening of the grain. You may even notice small cracks appearing. This is a totally natural process, and one to be expected. Water spots or other discoloration may also occur during the weathering process. These natural characteristics will eventually even out, as your furniture takes on a uniform silver-grey color. Teak is a natural material with wonderful ageing characteristics, how it ages is a signature characteristic of teak wood.

Again, with normal use, minor cracks and separations will occur in the wood. These are to be expected, affecting neither the quality nor the lifespan of the table, but adding to the charm of your piece of furniture.

## **SANDING AND BRUSHING**

If your outdoor furniture featured a sanded finish and the weathered or cracked appearance does not appeal to you, you may remedy this by re-sanding the teak. This is a process that usually only needs to happen twice - in the first year of ownership.

Equally if your piece was delivered with a rustic finish and natural cracking or weathering appears that does not appeal to you, this may be addressed by re-brushing the teak, moving along the grain. Again, this process generally need only occur twice in the first year.

## **TEAK OILS**

If you are planning on using the furniture indoors, oiling your teak furniture can be a good way to preserve the natural color, however outdoor teak furniture should not be oiled as it will not make it last longer, but will lock you into a requirement for regular maintenance.

Oiled outdoor teak furniture is more likely to mildew and may color irregularly as it ages.

New teak furniture often appears smooth and “polished” — this comes from the naturally occurring oils that are the hallmark of teak wood. The oil on the surface of your teak will gradually evaporate when the furniture is outdoors (this is what happens when it turns grey). It’s the oil that remains below the surface that gives the wood its strength and durability. This is also why teak may be left outside year round.

## **HOW TO KEEP THE ORIGINAL COLOR**

Should you plan on using a teak oil finish, please make sure to clean thoroughly with mildly soapy water and a soft bristle brush first. Wet timber must be allowed to dry for up to a week before finishing. Always apply oil under shade and not at a time of extreme heat or cool such as the beginning, end or middle of the day. Never apply in direct sun or when condensation or rain is likely. Make sure oil penetrates all grooves and joints. After oiling, assist the drying process by removing excess oil with a clean, dry rag. Repeat oiling 48hrs after initial application.

## **OTHER TIPS FOR PROTECTING AND CARING FOR YOUR TEAK**

If you don’t want the natural grey color and would like to keep the original natural color of the teak, your piece of furniture may be restored, by cleaning it with mild, soapy water and a soft bristle scrub brush. Alternatively a good teak cleaner is very effective and will require no heavy scrubbing or polishing. After cleaning, allow you teak furniture to fully dry and then apply a good quality teak sealer, which will help to maintain the natural color of your teak. Teak sealer need only be reapplied about once a year, but never to new teak. Remember, less is more with teak sealer, try to apply in thin layers.

While teak is the most "low maintenance" of all outdoor timbers, occasional cleaning of your teak furniture is encouraged to prevent dirt build up. Simply use a garden hose (no high pressure cleaners please), apply a mild detergent, gently scrub with a soft plastic bristled brush and rinse afterwards.

If a stain cannot be removed with a cleaning mixture, you may resort to lightly sanding away the affected area with a fine-grit sandpaper (for smooth treated pieces) or wire brush (for rustic treated pieces). Keep in mind that sanding will remove any sealer or patina on the wood's surface.

If you wish to relocate your piece of furniture, *please* do not drag it. Dragging your furniture over uneven (or even smooth surfaces) may cause jolting and shearing which may impact the integrity of the piece at the joints.

Over time fasteners may become loose. It is recommended to regularly check the fasteners to make sure they are tight. Do not over-tighten as it is possible to rip out woodnuts /nutserts through over-tightening.

## **STORING AND COVERING YOUR TEAK FURNITURE**

Should you be in a region with cold and snowy winters, it is advisable to store your furniture under a roof or covered area so as not to be in direct contact with expanding and contracting snow / ice / water which over time can cause unwanted cracking.

We recommend only "breathable" furniture covers that don't trap moisture, and then only when you are not using your furniture for extended periods. Only cover your timber furniture when it is dry, as covering wet timber furniture may cause mold to arise.

## **KEEP AWAY FROM DIRECT HEAT SOURCES**

Timber furniture is susceptible to extreme cracking if subjected to rapid heating or exposed to sustained intense dry heat. Special care should be taken not to place your piece in rooms next to a direct heat source or exposed to / under heated air ducts.

## **CUSHION CARE**

Please follow the washing instructions on the tag attached to the cushion. It is not advisable to leave cushions outdoors when not in use, for example overnight as extended exposure to the elements can result in mildew or mold forming. Avoid covering with non-breathable covers especially when wet.

## **METAL CARE**

Where your piece of furniture contains aluminum or powder coated metal, please do not use any harsh chemicals or stiff bristled brushes when cleaning as this may result in removing the powder coat. Not only will this be unsightly, in some cases this may cause rust

## **HANDMADE AND UNIQUE**

All our teak furniture is handmade and therefore unique, with no two pieces absolutely alike. While we take every precaution and care to ensure that our furniture is hand crafted to a high degree of craftsmanship, there may be some elements that are not 'perfect'. We encourage you to allow the imperfections to grow on you and trust that in time you will fall in love with these pieces which have lived other lives prior to finding a place in your home.

## **TREES4TREES**

For every piece of furniture we sell we aim to offset our carbon footprint by planting a tree. Please look for the hang tag on your piece of furniture for information regarding the trees4trees program for more information.

# Reclaimed Teak Wood Information Sheet

## HISTORY

The hardwood tree *Tectona grandis* (in latin) or Teak is an exceptional material, notable for its durability and low maintenance, especially in outdoor situations.

We use two types of teak in the production of our outdoor furniture; new teak, harvested from sustainable legal government plantation sources (SVLK) , and FSC certified reclaimed teak, sourced from old buildings and structures.

## RECLAIMED TEAK

For centuries, the mighty teak tree has grown in old growth forests across Asia. In dappled light under the jungle canopies, these old giants slowly grew. This slow growth held the secret to the unique and formidable weather, salt, sun, and insect resistant characteristics.

Because of its unparalleled quality, old growth teak was considered by locals to be the king of timbers and was used for centuries to construct traditional buildings and structures. Today, original teak like this is extremely rare to come by - unless you know exactly where to look.

As the current generation of Indonesia pulls down older teak buildings and structures to make way for new structures made from modern western materials, we step in to rescue and upcycle this heirloom timber into quality outdoor furniture.

Our mission is to ensure this majestic old growth timber is preserved in the handmade piece that stands before you. Each piece is a slice of rich history.

Each piece of your reclaimed teak furniture is handcrafted by Indonesian artisans who specialize in working with teak. As it is handmade from timber reclaimed from old structures, the sections that make up your piece of furniture carry with them a story. Each piece was once a rafter, a joist, a door frame, a shiplap board, or some other part of a structure or building which was cut, joined or fixed in some way. Holes must be patched and laminations made to bring your piece together.

Each reclaimed teak product is Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified, ensuring that 100% of our materials come from fully recycled and sustainable sources. Look for the FSC Logo on your piece of furniture.