

# Care Guidelines for your Hardwood Garden Furniture

Hardwood is a beautiful and durable material which is used for the construction of garden furniture. It has been the most popular choice for garden furniture for decades as it blends naturally into any garden or outdoor patio setting.

As wood is a natural product though it will require protection from the elements in order to maximise its durability and maintain its attractive colour and appearance. We recommend that you care for your furniture in accordance with these care guidelines.

## Prior to Use

Once your furniture arrives it is highly recommended that it is treated immediately prior to use (All **TEAK** furniture must be treated prior to use as this will arrive un-treated) and essential to re-treat again after 6 weeks, this will then give the furniture the best start in its life.

## Regular Maintenance

General marks and spills can be removed with a very light soap and water solution, try not to overdo the cleaning as the soap solution may remove the wood protection which would then require re-treatment.

Regularly apply an appropriate wood treatment to all faces of the wood at least twice a year making sure you use an appropriate treatment for the type of wood your furniture is made from. Use the best quality treatment wherever possible. Dependant on environmental conditions you may need to apply treatment more regularly to offer the best protection to your furniture. If for example the furniture is placed under trees where sap is deposited or if the furniture is subjected to a large amount of rain soaking over a prolonged period, or is left to bleach in strong sunlight.

It is highly recommended that you cover the furniture whenever possible in order to minimise the exposure to sunlight and rain. Please treat any nuts and bolts to prevent rusting. There are maintenance sprays on the market which will be perfect for this task.

## The Winter Months

In the winter months we highly recommend that you store your furniture in a dry environment such as a garage or shed. Prolonged exposure to the winter weather can reduce the life of your furniture and mean that more maintenance is required to keep your furniture in tip top condition. Most wooden furniture can be carefully disassembled to aid in storage. Keep all parts protected ready for the new season.

The use of a vinyl cover, although ideal for use in summer months whilst your furniture is in use, is not recommended as an alternative to storing your furniture away in a shed or garage. The main reason for this is that this type of cover will encourage condensation which can be harmful to the timber by causing mould or even rot, even if the furniture has been treated.

Wood is a natural product and will expand and contract trapping moisture which may cause mould to appear or cracks along the grain. This is perfectly normal and is not a fault in manufacturing the product. If cracks do appear these can be filled with a proprietary wood filler and sanded down, the furniture can then be re-treated with a preservative.

By adhering to these care guidelines you will be able to enjoy your hardwood garden furniture for many seasons to come.