



Teak Furniture Maintenance Guide

Get your teak furniture ready for the new outdoor season*

Teak has been the popular choice for outdoor furniture for a number of years and there are good reasons why. Not only does it look good and come in a variety of formats and styles, but teak also ages extremely well. Its durability means that you can keep it outside all year long without treating or covering up against the elements. Your new teak furniture will look golden brown, but gradually over the years the colour will evolve to a lovely “lived-in” silver grey.

Follow our cleaning tips to ensure that your furniture looks its best for the forthcoming outdoor season.

Cleaning your furniture in spring

Once teak has weathered, it is advisable to give it an annual scrub in the Spring as preparation for the new outdoor season ahead. This is a simple process, all you need is soapy water and a scrubbing brush. However, to make the job easier, you can also use a pressure hose/washer. You should not use a water pressure of more than 60-80 bar because higher pressures may damage the furniture. Also, keep a distance of 15-20 cms between the washer nozzle and the surface to be cleaned. Take care not to direct the water jet directly into the furniture joints as this too may cause damage.

Although treating with teak oil can maintain the “just bought” look of your furniture, it is not necessary because it will not extend the life of your furniture. However, if you prefer your furniture to maintain its new colouring, then teak oil or stain can be applied but this must be undertaken before the furniture begins to weather and change colour. Ensure the furniture is dry and free of any dust or dirt and apply one light coat of oil with a clean cloth or brush, wiping off any surplus. Teak oil should not be applied over accumulated oil or dirt as the result will be dark and the furniture will eventually blacken. Re-oiling annually should be sufficient.

Removing marks from table tops

Stubborn marks from spills on a table top, especially if they contain fat, should be avoided where possible, as they can be difficult to remove. Any such marks will eventually be washed out and bleached by the elements. However, this process can be accelerated by allowing the stain to soak into any absorbent material applied to it for a time under pressure and then rubbing with sandpaper. You can also use a degreasing agent with a gentle scrubbing brush and rinsing off with clean water.





Cleaning cushions and parasol canvas

Follow the following guidelines for giving your cushions and parasol canvas a thorough clean in the Spring.

Cushions

- Leave cushion covers on the cushions for cleaning rather than removing and putting them in a washing machine
- Wash using natural soap (not a detergent) and rinse using cold water
- Air dry only and never apply heat to the fabric
- Do not put cushion covers into a tumble dryer or dry clean

Parasol canopies on the frame

Parasol canopies should be cleaned on the frame and not washed in a machine.

- Brush off loose dirt
- Hose down with clean cold water
- Prepare a cleaning solution of a mild, natural soap (not detergent) in water and apply using a soft bristle brush
- Allow soap to soak in
- Rinse thoroughly with clean cold water
- Air dry only and never apply heat to the fabric

Cleaning stubborn stains on cushion or parasol fabrics

If stubborn stains, such as mildew, persist on your cushion or parasol fabric use a diluted chlorine bleach-soap mixture for spot cleaning. Prepare a special cleaning mixture and proceed as follows: 100 grams (4oz) chlorine bleach and 50 grams (2oz) of natural soap added to 4 litres (1 gallon of water). Clean with a soft bristle brush and allow the mixture to soak in for up to 20 minutes. Rinse thoroughly with clean cold water, air dry and repeat the process, if necessary.

Keeping your cushion and parasol fabrics clean throughout the season

One of the best ways to keep your cushion or parasol fabrics looking good and to delay the need for vigorous cleaning is to hose them off on a monthly basis during the summer season with clean water. This practice will help prevent dirt from becoming deeply imbedded in the fabric and eliminate the need for more vigorous cleaning at a later date.