



S U M M E R
H O U S E
Outdoor Furniture Specialists

NATURAL FINISH TEAK: CARE & MAINTENANCE

The Weathering Process

Your new teak furniture will appear polished when first assembled due to naturally occurring oils in the wood. Though the oil on the surface will evaporate after a few days outdoors – it’s the oil below the surface that gives teak its durability. So durable, in fact, that teak furniture requires little maintenance and can be left outdoors year-round to weather naturally. While the rate of weathering varies depending on climate, moisture and exposure to sun (the weathering process will occur faster in moist climates and slower in dry climates), your furniture will eventually acquire a beautiful silver-grey patina as the surface pigments begin to fade. During the weathering process, you may notice “checking” or small cracks that appear in the wood.



This is perfectly natural, as wood expands and contracts slightly when left outdoors. Checking is cosmetic only and in no way affects the structural integrity of the

furniture. A lifting of the grain may occur, in particular, on the top edges of the arms and legs, but will return to its original smooth finish after the initial weathering process. To aid this process, simply clean the furniture with a soft bristle brush or sponge as indicated below. Water spots or other discoloration may also occur during the weathering process, but these will even out with time. Complete weathering usually takes from five to twelve months, depending on local conditions.

Important Cautions

Your furniture contains natural oils. Expect some of these oils to bleed out during the first weeks outside, including after the first few rainfalls. **PROTECT YOUR CUSHIONS** from difficult stains during this period by bringing them indoors when not in use, particularly before the furniture gets wet. Once the silver-grey patina has begun to form, such precautions are no longer necessary.

DO NOT USE OIL or **OIL-BASED** products on teak furniture that is used outdoors. Oiling outdoor teak may attract mildew or cause irregular coloration.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should a power washer be used to clean teak furniture, as this will erode the wood, roughening its surface.

Because teak is a naturally oily wood, it is not possible to paint or varnish. Any paint or varnish applied will not adhere properly to the surface and will quickly start to crack, flake or peel off.

Avoid subjecting teak furniture to sudden dramatic changes in temperature and humidity (such as moving straight from an autumn garden to heated indoor storage), which may cause the wood to split.

Routine Cleaning

The only maintenance essential for your furniture is periodic cleaning, which we recommend doing at least annually. First, hose down the furniture with fresh water. Next, scrub the wet furniture using a soft bristle brush or Scotch-Brite pad and a solution of 2/3 cup liquid dish soap in 1 gallon of warm water. If mildew is present, 1/4 cup bleach may be added to the solution. When finished, rinse the entire piece with fresh water to remove any remaining cleaning solution. For more difficult stains like grease and red wine, we recommend Kingsley~Bate™ Teak Cleaner.

Long Term Maintenance

Teak that has not been cleaned can become dark gray or black after some years. For this we recommend Kingsley~Bate™ Teak Cleaner to clean your furniture. For best results, use the basic cleaning procedure detailed above before proceeding to Teak Cleaner. Teak can also benefit from an occasional light sanding using a 220 or 300 grit sand paper (best done when clean).

To protect teak surfaces from staining and to help maintain the silver-grey patina on weathered teak, we recommend Kingsley~Bate™ Teak Shield. It creates an invisible shield which helps prevent food (coffee, ketchup, red wine, olive oil, etc.) from penetrating into the teak and causing unsightly stains. Teak Shield also helps prevent absorption of moisture, adhesion of dirt, and growth of mildew.

If you wish to maintain or return to the golden-brown color of new teak, we also offer Kingsley~Bate™ Teak Protector. Application of Teak Protector will not affect the strength or longevity of the furniture in any way, just its appearance. If you elect to use Teak Protector, you will be embarking on a regular maintenance program, as Teak Protector needs to be periodically re-applied to provide continuous color protection.

Teak-Specific Maintenance Products

Kingsley~Bate™ Teak Cleaner (33 oz / 1 liter plastic bottle)

Water-based acidic formula cleans and brightens weathered teak in one simple step. Non-toxic and environmentally friendly, this highly concentrated solution returns much of the wood's original color and will supply multiple cleaning cycles on a large number of pieces. Use for deep cleaning, stubborn stains, or removal of dirt and oxidation prior to Teak Shield or Teak Protector.

Kingsley~Bate™ Teak Shield (33 oz / 1 liter plastic bottle)

Water-based, non-toxic and biodegradable formula repels moisture and helps prevent stains from food and drinks. Retains the silver-grey patina of weathered teak or can be applied directly to new teak (best after furniture has been outside a few weeks) to maintain original coloration. Apply once or twice a year for ongoing protection.

Kingsley~Bate™ Teak Protector (33 oz / 1 liter plastic bottle)

Water-based formula brightens and restores teak to its original golden-brown color. Apply annually for best color maintenance.