

A STEP by **STEP** GUIDE



****How to's and more****

to Caring For **Furniture Flooring and Antiques**

Chris Green

Introduction

Your home is probably your most valuable asset. Regular maintenance is needed to ensure it holds its value and remains safe and comfortable to live in.

Likewise your furnishing and flooring represent a significant investment over the course of time. The fact is, homes are lived in, and furnishings and flooring can become tired, damaged and dirty through general day-to-day wear and tear.

I have developed the guide to assist you in extending the life of your floors, furnishings and antiques as well as showing you how to protect these items from accidental damage.

Many of the solutions contained in this guide can be achieved by using everyday household products but I also recommend specialist products to achieve better results and outcomes.

The specialist products I recommend can be found on the website where you downloaded this guide along with videos, images and... "How-To's" showing you how to use and apply many of these products.

You'll also find links and resources throughout this book. That doesn't mean you have to use those products or resources.

Anything I recommend I have used and tested myself. I sincerely hope you enjoy the guide and find it useful.

Feel free to share this guide

Chris Green



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Simple Tips to Extend the Life of your Timber Furniture

The Effects of Liquids, Chemicals and Hot Objects on Timber Furniture

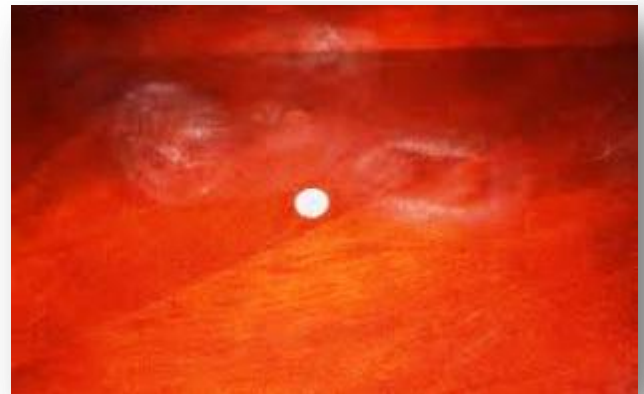
Certain timber furniture items get regular use during daily activities in the home. These items include dining tables, occasional tables, desks and nightstands.

A little extra care and some common sense will go a long way in preserving your timber furniture and keeping it in good order for many years.

Finished wood furniture is most vulnerable to liquids, chemicals and hot objects. While some finishes provide extra protection, no finish is impervious to these conditions.

It's best to protect timber surfaces from liquid damage by flower vases, drinking glasses, soda cans or any objects that hold fluid by using a coaster or some sort of protective cover.

Water Damage on Timber Table



Household chemicals and timber furniture do not mix

Many products contain acetates (very small acidic particles) that quickly penetrate and react with wood finishes. The reaction often times results in the finish being removed.

There are certain types of finishes, like catalysed lacquers, that help prevent this but it is never a good idea to use chemicals on wood furniture.

Reactive chemicals that need to be kept away from wood furniture at all costs

Some of the most reactive chemicals that can cause extensive damage to timber furniture are found in cleaning solutions, alcohol, perfumes or aftershaves, medications and the worst of all, nail polish remover.

Acetone (nail polish remover) is a harsh solvent and tends to have ill-effects on furniture finish. If acetone has not penetrated finish, you may have luck removing marks with a mixture of toothpaste and baking soda paste.

Acetone Nail Polish Remover



Rub with soft cloth in direction of wood grain. Try rubbing white spots with superfine “0000” superfine steel wool and furniture polish or wax.

✗ ***Do not use steel wool on high gloss finishes. Or, rub spots lightly with a paste of powdered pumice or rottenstone and linseed oil. Not all DIY methods work on all finishes. If spots cannot be removed, it usually requires refinishing.***

! ***Do not attempt these repairs if you are unsure about what you are doing. If in doubt always call a professional repairer.***

Wine Spill on Table



Also, certain foods contain dyes or chemicals that can stain the finish, some of these items include mustard and wine.

Always clean spills immediately by blotting as opposed to wiping the spill to prevent further damage to your furniture's finish.

Once the spill has been cleaned and dried off with a soft cloth apply a coat of [good quality furniture polish](#) to help protect the surface.

***Never place hot objects or liquids on timber furniture
always use placemats & coasters (Make sure they are not rubber backed)***

! **Heat is one of the biggest causes of damage to furniture!**

The effects of too much heat are similar to the effects of standing water on the finish. Heat causes the finish to expand and breaks the seal between the finish and the wood. The result is the same light blurry marks and heat rings in the finish that cannot be cleaned away.

Heat effects on Furniture



! **The common sense rule is if an object is too hot to leave on your hand, it is too hot to be on the furniture!**

A finishing professional can generally repair this condition but some common sense can easily avoid the problem.

Micro waved or oven heated plates and dishes, hot beverages, hot pizza in the delivery box, these are all

examples of items that should be protected from your furniture's finish.

Even if hot items pass the "leave it on your hand test", a certain amount of finish is melted and transferred to the hot item. Over time, the finish is removed in high use areas.

- ! **Give your furniture a treatment of good quality furniture wax every 3 - 6 months to help protect and extend the life of the finish.**

Minimise Humidity Changes

Timber splits



Up to half the weight of freshly sawn wood is water. The purpose of kiln and air drying wood before it is used in any building or furniture making is to remove moisture to try to attain an Equilibrium Moisture Content i.e. the water content of the wood is equal to the moisture content of the surrounding air.

However, furniture will be moved from location to location over its life, and the wood will respond to changes in the moisture content of the new surrounding air by absorbing more moisture and expanding, or by losing moisture and shrinking.

Generally, this movement will be minor, but it may none the less be noticeable by way of separation of the wood components, particularly at corners, or by minor separation of the wood surface itself.

We recommend that changes to humidity where your furniture is located be mitigated as far as possible by the following:

- ! Keep well-watered plants or large water-filled vases or other containers in the room near where your furniture is located.
- ✗ Avoid direct sunlight.
- ✗ Do not leave the furniture near electric or gas heaters, nor near air conditioning or central heating outlets.



Handling & Moving Furniture

- ! **Before you move a piece of furniture, examine it for loose or damaged joinery.**

Never slide or drag furniture along the floor, especially tables. The vibration can loosen or break joints, chip feet, break legs, etc., to say nothing of what dragging does to the carpeting or the finish on the floor.

Wrong way to move Furniture



If you have carpet, tile or wood floors always use [furniture movers or gliders](#) to avoid damaging your floors and the furniture when moving it.

- ! **Never slide heavy furniture over wood, tiled or laminated floors!**

Before picking up a piece of furniture, determine how it is put together and if any of its parts are removable or detachable. Make sure you know where the furniture is its strongest - generally along a major horizontal element - and

try to carry it from these points.

Then examine the room and the route whereby the furniture is to be moved. Look around to make sure you know where everything is. Identify potential trouble. Light fixtures that hang low, or items that extend out from a wall may be damaged or cause damage.

Glass table tops are also easily damaged if bumped. If necessary, clear the way by moving or removing fragile or obstructive items. Protect the furniture to be moved with soft padding or wrap it in a blanket pad. Padding, which will provide extra insurance against bumping and gouging, is especially important if an item is going into storage.

Never hurry when you are moving furniture. Scratches, dents, and gouges from bumps against hand truck, doorways, and other furniture are always more likely in haste.

Each item needs to be approached individually, without haste, and with sufficient manpower present.

Make sure you have a firm grip on the piece with both hands. Do not wear cotton gloves. It is essential that your hands don't slip from a piece of furniture while it is being moved.

Moving Tables

The strongest part of a table is generally the apron. Whenever possible, lift the table carefully from the apron, never by the top or legs.

Lifting on the top rather than the apron may break the glue-blocks that hold the top to the frame or strip out the screws that hold the top on.



Grabbing the legs, particularly tables with long, unsupported legs, will cause unnecessary stress on the leg and the joint connecting it to the apron.

If you are moving a drop-leaf table, first determine which support members move. Is the table leaf supported by a bracket or by a swing-leg?

Fold the leaves down, and restrain them with padding and a tie band. If the support is provided by a swing-leg or gate-leg, tie it in place as well.

- ! The only safe place to grab a drop-leaf table is underneath the end aprons. Grabbing by the legs, especially swing-legs, will increase the chance of damage to them, and grabbing the table by the side leaves will often result in fracturing the long rule joint that allows the leaves to drop.**
- ! Chairs should be lifted by the seat rails and not by the arms or crest rail.**
- ! Never grab a heavy piece like a chest of drawers or bookcase by the cornice at the top. The attachment of the top to the base may be loosened and pull apart from the rest of the piece.**

Lift the piece straight up, using your legs, not your back. Don't let it tilt, and do not grab it by its hardware or any other protrusions.

Handling valuable furnishings requires a special attitude: in general, movement should be carried out at a slower pace.

Moving Large Clocks

Moving projects become increasingly difficult with objects that are large and complex. Objects that come apart into many pieces or are unwieldy require extra care and preparation. Because of their many parts grandfather and grandmother clocks are very difficult to move.

Always remove the pendulum and weights from within the clock before doing anything else. These pieces are heavy and will damage the clock case if they smash into the side of the case. They may also cause damage to the mechanism itself. Wear cotton gloves when you remove the pendulum and weights, to avoid corroding the metal pieces from skin contact.

Remove the hood from the top of the clock (they often slide forward), and lay it down to pack and move separately. Make sure the door to the case is locked or securely closed before moving the clock. Use bare hands, not gloves, for moving and packing the carcass of the case.

For short moves, like those of only a few feet, it is permissible to lift by grabbing the narrow case from the underside of the moulding at the top of the waist, or centre portion of the case, provided that the moulding is firmly attached to the case itself. For longer moves, or if that moulding is not secure, the clock case should be carried flat like a coffin.

Summary:

Here are some quick tips for moving furniture properly.

Remember: If you don't break it, it doesn't have to be fixed!

1. Anticipate problems trouble.
2. Think through every step.
3. Plan ahead.
4. Make sure you have the strength to handle the weight of the furniture so you don't drop it or injure yourself
5. Do everything with care.
6. Make sure the route is clear and has no obstructions.



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7. Measure narrow doorways to make sure the furniture will fit through.
 8. Remove furniture feet or legs if possible if access is tight.
 9. Remove lamps and ornaments or hanging pictures and chandeliers that might hinder the safe passage of the furniture being moved.
 10. Take shelves out or any items that could come adrift whilst moving. Once you have ascertained that it is safe to move, remove elements such as shelves, doors, and drawers. If doors cannot be removed, secure them by locking or wrapping the case with soft cotton straps.

12 Tips to Long Lasting Timber Furniture

Proper wood furniture care is essential if you want it to last, with some good information and the right furniture care products, fine wood furniture can really last for many years.

Below are some valuable care tips and links to products that will help you to get the most life and enjoyment out of your furniture.

1. Do not place drink glasses, jugs or vases etc on the furniture's surface without a coaster or place mat to protect it.
2. Never put hot pots, pans, dishes, cups or mugs on wood furniture, always use place mats, coasters or heat proof pads to protect the surface. Heat marks and damage can be very difficult to remove and usually require a professional restorer to repair.
3. Always keep coasters handy to prevent water rings and heat marks.
4. Keep wood furniture dry. If wood gets really wet for too long it can cause damage to the finish and actually warp the wood.
5. Be sure to clean up any spills as soon as they occur. Using a blotting action rather than wiping is a better solution.
- ✗ **Do not let spills dry or you could end up with a permanent stain. Take immediate action to clean up the spill. Never use sharp objects to remove spilt or dried up food.**
6. Never use any type of cover that has a rubber, plastic or vinyl backing on wood furniture, many of these materials have chemicals in them that can react with the wood's finish and cause major damage.

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7. When burning candles, it's advisable to use a felt protector with a plastic top. Candle wax will not run as much when it makes contact with plastic.

If candle wax does happen to drop onto the wood surface wait until the wax has cooled and hardened before trying to remove it.

For best results apply an ice cube onto the spilt wax until it goes hard and brittle then get an old credit card or smooth plastic spatula and gently scrape the wax off the surface.

✗ Avoid using sharp objects to remove candle wax as you could easily damage the furniture's finish.

Once the candle wax is removed polish the area with a good quality beeswax polish and buff away any remaining residue.

8. Keep furniture out of direct sunlight. When furniture is exposed to the sun for long periods of time it's possible for the furniture to fade and age prematurely.

You may want to close the curtains or blinds during certain parts of the day to keep the direct sunlight off.

9. If possible try to avoid extreme changes in temperature. Always arrange furniture away from radiators and air conditioning units.

10. Dust your furniture regularly to keep the surface clean. Always use [pure cotton polishing cloth](#) to avoid scratching and use a good quality silicone and petro-chemical free furniture polish for excellent long term wood furniture care.

11. Never do your nails on any painted, finished or stained furniture. Nail polish and especially nail polish remover will strip the finish right down to the wood. Please don't think that putting down newspaper will eliminate the problem, it will not.

As a matter of fact the newspaper will probably glue itself to the top of the furniture creating just as big a problem as the nail polish falling straight onto the bare surface.

12. Minor scratches and dents can often be removed by using [furniture touch up products](#).

Cleaning and Polishing Wood Furniture

Regular Cleaning

Wood furniture needs to be dusted frequently with a clean, soft, dry, lint-free cloth. Clean the surface by rubbing in the direction of the grain. You should dust and polish your furniture weekly and apply a protective coating of beeswax furniture polish approximately every six months.



Choosing the right furniture polish

Furniture Polish – How to choose the right one.

With so many choices of furniture polish available on the market today how do you know which one is right for you?

There are several factors to weigh up when you're deciding which furniture polish or beeswax to use on your timber furniture and other wooden objects.

One critical factor is that the ingredients in commercial polishes and cleaning products are rarely disclosed. Moreover, these ingredients can be, and frequently are, changed without warning or notification.

These ingredients may be harmless or harmful to the furniture (and to you) and you have no way of knowing in advance.

Read the label first

The first thing to look for is a furniture polish that only contains natural ingredients, always steer clear of anything that contains silicon, gum turps or petro-chemical by-products, these types of furniture polishes are most commonly found in supermarkets and hardware stores and should be avoided at all costs. Ask your furniture retailer for a recommended furniture polish. [Order online.](#)

What are the problems with these ingredients?

Let me go through them one by one and you'll see why it's best to avoid them.

Silicone and why it should be avoided

Silicone is put in furniture polish to make application easy and buffing off easy but, if you ever need to have the piece of furniture you are polishing repaired or refinished it creates all sorts of problems for the repairer.

The repairer is unable to remove the silicone residue or film that's left on the surface, which then causes the new lacquer being applied to bubble and not adhere to the surface as it is supposed to.

Long term use of silicone polishes on furniture can cause the lacquer on the surface to crack, split and break down.

Gum Turps

Gum turps is a common ingredient found in many beeswax polishes especially companies who produce old style traditional waxes.

This is an ingredient that is commonly used to keep the beeswax polish soft while still in the can and to make the wax dry when it's applied to the furniture's surface.

The main problems associated with gum turps are: Toxicity, skin irritations and generally poor results.

Gum turps in wax makes it hard to apply and hard to remove and will always leave an oily, smeary finish.

Petro-Chemicals and Tolulene

These ingredients are most commonly found in aerosol furniture polishes and oils, and as with gum turps they can create toxic fumes, skin irritations and give poor results.

! Important Note:

Oil Based Furniture Polishes tend to attract dust rather than repel it. If you've ever used these types of furniture polish you might have noticed that a couple of days after you've polished your furniture it looks like you hadn't even done it.

The reason that happens is when the dust settles on the surface again it impregnates itself into the oily residue that's left behind after polishing.

Always look for a [chemical free Furniture Polish](#) or Beeswax Polish that leaves a fresh, smooth, smear free finish.

Carnauba Wax

Carnauba wax is sometimes found in beeswax polishes but only use a polish that contains this ingredient if you are trying to get a high gloss finish on raw wood, it is not overly useful on lacquered finishes as it can make a satin finish very patchy with shiny spots all over it.

Most furniture restorers and repairers recommend using a [good quality beeswax furniture polish](#) for the proper care of wood furniture.

How To Wax Timber Furniture

Waxing and Buffing

Get a good quality silicone free furniture wax with a [soft cotton polishing cloth](#), and rub in a small amount of wax using the circular motion, finishing with the grain.

Keep rubbing the wax over the surface to make sure that it has spread in a thin even layer.

If your using a paste wax the motto is “two thin layers are better than one thick layer,” then wait until the wax has dried. It will make a squeaking sound when you rub your finger on the surface.

Do sections at a time and work all the surface legs, sides, tops and doors before you start to buff using a clean wax free cotton cloth. By cross grain buffing you will create a lovely lustre to the finished surface.

If you're using a liquid wax polish or a [furniture oil](#), apply the oil with a soft cloth in circular motion going with the grain. Use a second cloth to remove excess and buff to a shine.

Furniture Touch Ups

Minor damage to wood furniture like surface scratches and dents can occur with normal use. Many furniture stores carry touch up products like [filler sticks](#) and [scratch fix pens](#) that make minor repairs simple.

More complex repair or refinishing jobs are best left to professionals. If you do decide to try these repairs, always test an inconspicuous area of the furniture first to make certain the repair



procedure won't damage the finish.

Scratch Fix Pens, also known as Furniture Touchup Pens, are the easiest and most simple product to use for fixing minor nicks or scratches. They contain a quick drying oil based stain and you just apply the colour to the damaged area and wipe of excess stain with a cloth, apply a second coat if necessary.

Follow the instructions and you won't go too far wrong.

! **Handy Tip:** When using your Scratch Fix Pens always start with a colour that is as closely matched to your furniture as possible.

! A good rule of thumb is to start lighter and work up to darker if the exact colour is unavailable.

! Apply one coat and check the result, if it's not dark enough then give it a second coat.

If it's still not dark enough move onto a darker colour pen.

Removing paper stuck to wood furniture

Do not try to scrape the paper off. Dab some linseed or **orange oil** on the paper. Let the oil soak for a bit, and then remove the paper by rubbing it with your fingers.

Give the area a coat of good quality furniture polish to finish off.

Summary

Follow these timber furniture care tips, handle your furniture carefully and use the right cleaning, care and maintenance products and you will extend the life of your furniture and enjoy it for years.



Fabric & Carpet Spot Cleaning & Care Tips

Stain Removal Guide For Fabrics & Bedding

Important Information & Disclaimer

- ! Please note that while this advice is offered in good faith, no responsibility is accepted for claims arising from the treatments proposed. Carry out these procedures at your own risk otherwise call a professional upholstery cleaner to carry out the work for you.
- ! Before carrying out any of these procedures always test recommended cleaning products or ingredients in an inconspicuous area and test for any adverse reactions and if the fabric is colourfast and no bleeding or colour discolouration occurs.
- ! Always look for and read the carpet, fabric or furniture manufacturers recommendations and guidelines so any breach of manufacturers warranties do not occur.

Stain Removal Guide for Carpets and Fabrics:

Alcoholic Beverages

After the moisture has been blotted up, dab at the stain with a clean cloth dampened in rubbing alcohol. Then blot repeatedly with liquid detergent mixed with cool water. Blot dry with a towel. Dab again with clear cool water and blot dry.



Blood

After the moisture has been blotted up, dab at the stain with a clean cloth dampened in rubbing alcohol. Then blot repeatedly with liquid detergent mixed with cool water. Blot dry with a towel. Dab again with clear cool water and blot dry.

Chewing gum

Rub an ice cube over the gum to harden it, then scrape off the excess with a dull knife. To remove what's left, use dry cleaning fluid.

- ! **Caution: ensure that no flame or lighted cigarette is near and use in a well-ventilated area.**

Chocolate (and other soft candy)

This is a combination greasy/non-greasy stain. Scrape excess away, then go over the spot with cool water mixed with a liquid detergent. Blot thoroughly and then clean with dry cleaning fluid.

! Caution: ensure that no flame or lighted cigarette is near and use in a well-ventilated area.

Coffee and Tea

Sponge with warm water. Apply warm glycerine. Leave for 30 minutes. Flush out with water and dry quickly.

Cosmetics

Sponge with warm water. Apply warm glycerine. Leave for 30 minutes. Flush out with water and dry quickly.

Fruit and fruit juices

After excess is blotted up or scraped away, blot the spot with cool water. If a stain remains, add liquid detergent and a drop of vinegar to the water.

Dab the spot with this mixture and blot until there's no trace of a stain. Then go over the area lightly with clear water to remove traces of vinegar.

Grease (including hair grease and oil)

Scrape away excess if necessary and then dab repeatedly at the stain with dry cleaning fluid. If any stain remains, go over the area with a lukewarm mixture of liquid detergent and water.

Always make sure you use a clean portion so you don't put the stain back in the fabric. Last, go over the area with a clean cloth moistened with cool clear water.

Ice cream

Scrape away excess and apply cool water mixed with liquid detergent, blotting frequently with a dry cloth so as not to saturate the fabric. Let dry and then go over any remaining stain with dry cleaning fluid. Blot dry.

Ink

Moisten with warm glycerine. Leave for 10 minutes. Apply liquid detergent and brush lightly. Flush out with water and dry quickly.

Iodine

Rub with cut lemon before sponging with warm water. Apply small quantity of detergent with clean cloth. Blot stain then remove soapy residue with cloth wrung out in warm water and white vinegar solution (1/3 vinegar to 2/3 water).

Milk and vomit

Blot or scrape away the excess, then take a clean soft cloth and blot. Apply clear cool water to the area, blotting frequently. Then blot with a detergent solution to which you've added a small amount of ammonia. Blot dry and wait a few minutes.

Go over the area with dry cleaning fluid, blot dry. Finally, blot the area lightly with a cloth moistened with rubbing alcohol.

Soft Drinks, Sweets and Syrups.

Sponge with water, add warm glycerine and work into stain. Flush out with water and dry.

Shoe Polish

Apply liquid paraffin to loosen the stain, then sponge with dry cleaning fluid.

! Caution: ensure that no flame or lighted cigarette is near and use in a well-ventilated area.

Urine

It is especially important to treat this stain right away, before the urine dries. Otherwise, the urine may react with the fabric dyes and cause permanent discolouration. First, dab at the stain with a solution of white vinegar and water and blot dry.

Then apply a mixture of liquid detergent and cool water, blotting frequently and with a dry cloth to avoid saturating the fabric. Finally, dab the spot with clear cool water and blot thoroughly.

Water spots

Blot thoroughly and then dampen the entire spot with clear white vinegar. Wait a few minutes. When the area is dry, moisten it again with clear water, blotting with a dry cloth after every application of the damp cloth.

! If the fabric has a pile, brush in the direction of the pile when it is dry.

A Simple Guide for Spot Cleaning Spills and Stains on Carpet & Upholstery

When you're planning a dinner party and the only thing on your mind is "What if someone spills on my carpet?" What should you do?

Aside from recommending that you don't serve red wine or coffee, here's a simple guide for treating stains and maintaining carpets and upholstery.

Always clean up spills quickly to avoid staining. Start by removing any solid debris. Clean the spill using clean, cold water and blotting with white paper towels or cloths. Never scrub or brush the spill as it will damage fibres and possibly set the stain.



If this doesn't work try using a [neutral PH spot cleaner](#)

Regular vacuuming and spot treatment will improve the quality and life span of your carpets and upholstery.

Since chemicals are hard on the fibres of carpets and upholstery, you should always start with mild cleaning solution before moving on.

Start with clean water and move onto a mild solution of liquid soap (never use laundry detergent) or an oxygen based cleaner which usually works well on organic stains (food, animal, blood) before using chemical spot removers.

Always try to use a natural spot cleaner that doesn't contain harsh chemicals

Test the [cleaning products for carpets](#) or upholstery in an inconspicuous spot to make sure there are no adverse reactions or staining.

Place a white paper towel or cloth on the tested area to check for colour transfer.

If the spot cleaner is safe apply a small amount of spot removal product to a clean, white cloth and work your way from the OUTSIDE of the stain inwards.

Upholstery stains can also be treated with a 3% Hydrogen Peroxide solution that can be left on and dabbed. You do not need to rinse. Hydrogen Peroxide works equally well on vinyl furniture.

When the stain is removed rinse with clean water and blot the excess out. Replace towels when they are too wet to absorb anymore water.

Be careful to avoid over wetting as it can cause water marks and also damage your carpet or cause mildew in your carpet or upholstered furniture.

Taking the time to treat spills before they're stains will go a long way towards keeping your carpets and upholstery looking as good as new!

For persistent or hard to remove stains you may need to call a professional carpet and upholstery cleaner.

How to Care For Carpet

Like other fine furnishings, carpet requires proper care, and you should reference your residential warranty for specific care requirements.

There are also a few simple steps you can take to insure the lasting beauty of your carpet:

- ✓ Keep the dirt/soil out.
- ✓ Use walk-off mats at entrances and other areas to keep outside dirt and moisture from being tracked onto the carpet. Clean mats frequently. Keep your paths and entrances free of excessive dirt.
- ✓ The best way to reduce dirt accumulation and prolong the life of your carpet is to vacuum, vacuum, vacuum! Most dirt, even dust, is in the form of hard particles. When left in the carpet, these gritty, sharp particles abrade the pile as effectively as sandpaper.
- ✓ How frequently should you vacuum? That depends on the amount of foot traffic and household soil to which your carpet is exposed. More use means more frequent vacuuming.
- ✓ The best type a vacuum cleaner is one with a rotating brush or “brush/beater bar” to agitate the pile and mechanically loosen soil particles.
- ✓ The exception to this is for shag styled products with longer yarns which might tend to wrap around a rotating brush. For these styles use a suction-only vacuum. Be aware that some vacuums have overly aggressive action which may damage the surface of your carpet.
- ✓ Cheap vacuum cleaners can remove surface dirt but they will not effectively remove the hidden particles embedded in the pile.
- ✓ Prompt attention to spots and spills is essential. Some spilled materials will stain or discolour carpet if not removed promptly.

-
- ✓ Other spills can leave a sticky residue that may result in increased soiling if not removed.

How to Remove Dents In Carpet Caused By Furniture Legs

Here's my tip: Dents in carpets (from furniture legs sitting on them for a long time) come right out if you put an ice cube in the middle of the dent. Leave the ice cube alone and let it melt completely. Within a few hours the dent will be totally gone.

How do I Remove Nail Polish from my Carpet?

This fix is super easy and you'll be amazed at how well it works. First of all don't panic and don't rub the spot, but you will need to try to work quickly before it gets too dry. Begin by taking several dry paper towels and gently press the spots in order to lift the majority of the excess nail polish.

Next spray the spot with a regular glass cleaner (Windex or whatever brand you have on hand) and then, at first, blot with clean dry paper towels.

Once you lift most of the nail polish you can then spray the spot once again with the glass cleaner and gently rub the carpet quickly in a circular motion, changing paper towels until the spot is gone.

The lighter the carpet the harder it will be to remove of course, but with a little elbow grease it should work with no problem.



Tips for Removing Pet Hair from Upholstered Furniture

Removing pet hair can be a real pain but, after doing a little bit of research, I found this article that could make removing pet hair from your upholstered furniture an easier task.

Pet hair on your furniture is one of the all time nuisances. If you have cats and dogs, then you know all about pet hair on the furniture, carpets, drapes and floors.



Removing pet hair is an extremely time-consuming project, and yet we never seem to remove it all. It is also a project that is not one of our favourite things to do. We try vacuuming, lint rollers and all the new products they have out there to remove pet hair, and unless your furniture is leather, it still keeps clinging to your furniture.

When you are cleaning your home, you vacuum, your steps, your furniture, your floors and your carpeting, but you still manage to find pet hair on the fabrics surface.

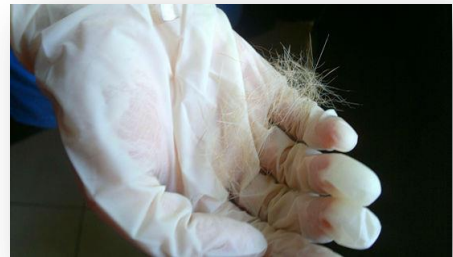
Quite often you'll even find it on your curtains.

Hair can be a nuisance, especially with cats, because they lay all over your furniture. But they are like our children. Even a small dog, and yes big dogs as well, love to hang out on the furniture relaxing. We deal with the hair and even the dander every day.

What can we do to decrease or completely remove all that hair?

Well there are a few ways to help remove that stubborn pet hair. If you like Fabreeze, and vanilla/lavender is my favourite, you can mist your furniture and rub your hands across the fabric.

If you are not fond of rubbing your hand over the furniture, you can use a rubber glove. Surgical gloves are probable the best type to use. The pet hair will cling right on your hand. It is actually amazing.



You may want to hold a plastic grocery bag to keep putting the wet hair in. When you go around and do this, and depending on amount of pets and hair, you will remove all the pet hair off of your furniture, you'll also end up with it smelling fresh and clean, and it air dries so you have no mess to clean up.

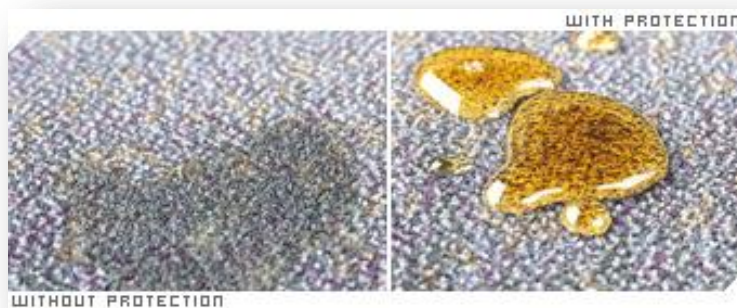
Another way is to mist your furniture and use a fabric softener of your choice. This also works well, and also aids in freshening your furniture. You may find the glove method is an easier choice.

If there is a particular area of carpeting that your pet frequently lies on, first vacuum and then you can use the same procedure.

It's quick, easy and works like a charm. You will be very surprised at the results, so next time you want to remove pet hair, try this and see how it works for you.

Fabric Protection

Fabric Protection is designed to protect Furniture Fabrics and soft furnishings from stains, grime, dirt and soil build up.



Having [fabric protector](#) applied to your furniture, furnishings, car seats and carpet will help:

- ✓ Maintain a new, clean appearance for longer
- ✓ Protect against spills, dirt, grime and staining
- ✓ Allow for easier cleaning in the future
- ✓ Reduce the allergens that can trigger Asthma, Hay Fever, Sinus and Eczema
- ✓ Control and inhibit the growth of Mould, Mildew and Bacteria
- ✓ Control the population of Dust Mites by controlling the growth of their food source.

Fabric Protector is also designed to coat the fibres with an invisible barrier which changes the treated fibres surface and helps to stop fluids from penetrating and staining.

How To Apply

If you are applying a fabric protector from a spray bottle or from an airless spray gun, spray surface lightly and evenly and over lapping the previous run, make sure you do not wet the fabric, only apply enough product so the fabric feels damp all over.

Make sure you spray all high traffic areas and front and back of cushions.

Always Test First

Always test the product in an inconspicuous area first and check for colour fastness on the fabric or for any adverse reactions before starting any application.

Coverage:

1 litre of [water based Fabric Protector](#) will be approximately enough to do an application on a 5 to 6 seater lounge suite depending on how many cushions etc you have.

Drying Time

Water Based Fabric Protector

Most fabric protection products are water based and the drying time vary slightly but as a general rule of thumb the drying time will be roughly around 3 to 4 hours in warmer weather and 4-6 hours in cooler weather.

For maximum protection total curing time is around 48 hours.



Solvent Based Fabric Protector

There are some fabric protectors that are solvent based, these products are **very toxic** and have a very strong smell ***so for health reasons it is better to avoid them.***

But if you still do want to use them their drying and curing time is much quicker than water based products.

Touch dry in 15 minutes and properly cured and dry in about 24 hours.

Leather Care

If treated correctly, leather can last an incredibly long time. Most experts give leather an average lifespan of at least 4 times longer than that of textiles.

Why is Leather Care Important?

Today's leather manufacturers and tanneries apply many different coatings to leather hides in the tanning process.



These coatings are designed to protect the leathers from stain and wear resistance.

The idea of looking after the leather on your furniture is to keep these coatings in good condition for as long as possible.

By allowing a build up of dirt, grime, dust, body oils and food stains, and not doing anything to prevent that, can cause these coatings to breakdown and speed up the deterioration of the leather.

Leather Care Tips for Top Coated, Aniline and NuBuck Leather Furniture

10 Simple Tips To Keep Your Top Coated Leather Furniture Looking Luxurious and Always Feeling Soft and Supple.

1. The first step you should take with leather furniture care is to read and follow "Manufacturer's Care Label Instructions"
2. Wipe furniture at least once a week with a soft damp cloth to prevent dust build up and soiling.
3. Always use a good quality and specific [Leather Care Product](#), never use saddle soaps, abrasive cleaners, furniture wax, furniture oils, ammonias or excess water for cleaning leather.
4. When spot cleaning leather always use a [Neutral PH Leather Cleaner](#) to avoid harmful reactions with the top coat, pores and stitches. This same tip applies when you're doing a complete leather clean.
5. Always apply a good quality Leather Conditioner every 3 to 4 months to keep leather soft and supple and to prevent cracking or drying.
6. Apply a [Leather Conditioner](#) or [Protection cream](#) to help repel grime, stains, liquid spills and body oils.
7. Never place leather furniture near a direct heat source such as a radiator, heat vent or open fire place.
8. Keep furniture out of direct sunlight to prevent fading.
9. The salts and body oils, which occur naturally in human skin, can damage the surface of the leather if left uncleaned for lengthy periods of time.

In warm or humid weather it's important that leather is wiped over as often as

weekly, particularly if the leather has become damp from perspiration or deposits of body oils are visible on areas such as head rests.

Always clean along any creases that have developed in the leather and pay particular attention to areas that have come in contact with the skin such as arm covers, head rests and seat cushions.

10. Vacuum regularly with the soft brush attachment on your vacuum cleaner to remove dust and grime. Then wipe with a soft colour fast cloth dampened with straight water. This should be done as often as possible, at least every 1-2 weeks.

Every 3 months to 4 months clean the leather with a good quality leather cleaner and follow up with a leather conditioner to keep moisture in the leather.

Things to Avoid with Leather Furniture

- ! **Detergents:** Never use detergents, solvents, abrasives or poor quality leather or suede cleaners.
- ! **Cleaning:** Never try to dry clean or machine wash leather.
- ! **Pets:** Animals transfer hair and body oils to leather and break down the protective coatings.

Animal claws can also scratch your furniture damaging these coatings and compromising the leather surface.

Always ensure that your pets have no direct body contact with your leather surface.

- ! **Belts & Buckles:** These can cut and scar the leather when children play on leather furniture.
- ! **Jeans:** Denim and Indigo staining is possible on light colour leathers. Metal studs can also damage the leather surface.
- ! **Heat & Direct Sunlight:** These will dry out and crack the leather. Avoid long periods of exposure and check for the need to condition more often.
- ! **Hair Creams & Gels:** These should be removed promptly to avoid surface coat break down.
- ! **Ballpoint Pens:** Repeated trials show that very few ballpoint pens will penetrate the conditioner and protector. The ink penetration and light fastness will vary

depending on whether the ink is solvent or water based.

Rather than using chemicals (that will remove the top-coat which could accelerate re-soiling in that area for the life of the suite), the ink which is not removed with the cleaner should just be left alone.

Any remaining ink, not marker pen however, may fade away almost completely within 2-3 months. Professional cleaning advice is recommended.

- ! **Body Oils:** Accumulated dirt, perspiration and body oils will dull the colours and cause accelerated wear in all types of covers. As mentioned previously, when allowed to build up, they act to breakdown the tannery coatings and will accelerate the deterioration of the leather.
- ! **Wet Clothing:** Clothing and food dyes from wet clothing can transfer onto leather and need to be removed as soon as possible. Salt and chlorine from pools may break down top surfaces causing accelerated deterioration and wear of your leather furniture.
- ! **Mould:** In areas of high rainfall and humidity it is possible that mould can grow on the surface of leathers. Most leather care products contain a proven mould inhibitor. Using these products at suggested intervals should prevent mould growing on your leather furniture.

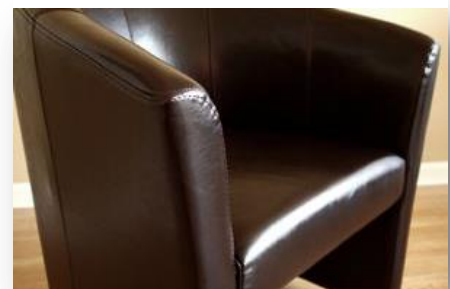
How to identify Top Coated Leather

Top Coated leather is also known as Pigmented, Protected or Painted it has a uniform appearance and intense colour as well as a distinct and definite grain. You will not find any visible natural leather markings through the top coat because a special pigmented paint is applied to the surface of the leather and then sealed with an extremely durable finish.

Top Coated Leather is the most common leather used on furniture around the world today and accounts for approximately 90% of the market.

Leather Furniture Care and Cleaning is easy on this type of leather as long as you use the correct Leather Care Product or Leather Care Kit and follow the instructions carefully.

Top Coated Leather



How to identify Premium Aniline and Nubuck Leathers

Premium Aniline Leather is a full grain leather that has been dyed or tanned.

This type of leather tends to be more pliable, softer and thicker than top coated or pigmented leathers.

Aniline will have little or no protective coating and the natural markings and grains will be visible through the finish.

This type of leather is prone to fading when exposed to the sun and due to its porous nature requires different cleaning procedures and products to top coated or protected leathers.

Nubuck Leather is also known as buffed or brushed leather and is even softer to touch than aniline.

It has a similar texture to velvet and when you scratch it with your fingernail you can just rub it away.

Water drops on the surface of Nubuck will darken the leather but it will return to its original or natural colour when it dries, just like aniline leathers.

Leather Furniture Care and Cleaning is a little more difficult on these types of unfinished leathers.

Aniline Leather



Nubuck Leather



Important Leather Cleaning and Care Tips for Aniline and Nubuck Leathers

1. Gently remove all spills immediately with clean dry cloth
2. Do not scrub hard
3. Do not use a damp cloth
4. Do not use Leather Conditioners or Creams on Nubuck or Aniline Leathers
5. Do not use shoe polish or saddle soaps.
6. For Aniline and Nubuck, Leather Furniture Care and Cleaning, the following is one of the most important rules. Only use leather cleaners that are clearly labeled as Nubuck or Aniline cleaners, normal leather cleaners are not suitable under any circumstances.
7. If you're unsure about leather cleaning on this type of leather it's always best to contact the manufacturer of your furniture or call in a professional upholstery cleaning expert to ensure it is done correctly and to get the right advice.
8. If vacuuming always use a soft attachment.

Pull Up Aniline Leather/ Waxed Leather

A very natural type of leather that is designed to distress as it ages because the colour lightens when stretched or scratched.

Pull-up leather is heavily treated with oil or wax which separates when the leather is stretched in usage. This produces a lighter colour and distressed look from day-to-day use.



Has a very natural and lived in look. All natural markings are visible and it has a soft and delicate touch.

This aniline dying process allows the scars, scratches and wrinkles, that occur naturally on the leather hides to show through the finish. Pull-up leathers require little maintenance.

Surface scratches are more pronounced but can be removed by rubbing them with your fingertips as the warmth of your hand releases the natural oils, blending away the marks. Colour variation throughout the hide can be expected.

Never use detergents, soaps or chemical to clean the surface, as they will tend to remove the natural oils in the leather.

A characteristic of Pull-up leather is, one bearing an oil / wax finish that lightens in colour when stretched.

Wipe down your leather once a week with a damp cloth to remove dust. Vacuum the leather with a soft brush attachment.

! Final Tip for Leather Care

Always make sure you use good quality [leather care products](#) to look after leather. ***Never use beeswax on leather.***

Cleaning & Maintaining Your Finished Timber Floors

Installing timber floors can be a great investment to add value to any home whether you have new floor boards laid, have old ones restored or whether you have Laminate Flooring. It helps to add warmth, character and personality to any room but it can cost a lot of money.

That's why looking after the timber flooring in your home is extremely important. By ensuring that your timber floor is properly cared for, it will look as good as possible for as long as possible.



Accidents happen all of the time whether you drop some sauce or other food onto the floor, or if you spill some water on it and forget to mop it up.

Things easily happen and without sorting it out, it can eventually turn into a problem for your wooden floors.

Regular Maintenance is Essential

Many floor owners have unrealistic expectations about the life and durability of timber floor coatings. Some expect the coatings to never wear or mark, and to be impervious to spillages and moisture, let alone it ever needing maintenance.

In this guide we aim to create realistic expectations by explaining how timber floors are a long term investment that will last a very long time, ***IF and only if***, regular cleaning and maintenance is carried out and the floors are protected from moisture and abrasion.

Routine maintenance includes sweeping, vacuuming or dust mopping to remove dirt and grit which if left will accumulate and act as an abrasive, especially as it is traipsed throughout the home. This schedule should also include the occasional light damp mopping with the floor manufacturer's recommended cleaner.

Good quality mats placed inside and outside all entrance doors are the next best solution to prevent spreading abrasive dirt and grit through the house. Area mats placed in high traffic areas such as at the kitchen sink or hallways greatly assist in the reduction of wear in these areas.

Ensure the finish is completely cured before placing mats or rugs. Move them periodically as ultraviolet light can change the colour of exposed timber giving the floor an uneven appearance.

If shoes are worn inside, they should be kept in good order to prevent denting of the timber floorboards, and dogs claws should be kept trimmed for the same reason.

✗ Avoid Wearing High Heels

Did you know that a woman weighing 57kgs wearing high heels exerts a force of over 2,000 psi on a timber floor. Amazingly this is 20 times greater than the pressure exerted by an elephant on the same floor of only 50-100 psi. Exposed nailheads on chair legs or damaged stillettos can destroy timber flooring.



The other big problem with timber floors is damage around and underneath dining tables. It's a heavily used area and the constant scraping of chairs in and out can quickly degrade the finish.

Fit good quality [felt floor protectors](#) to stop damage on timber floors. The best solution, outside of felt, is a product called "[Slipstick Foot](#)". These are premium quality floor protectors that can be attached to furniture and will not come off.

Timber Floors & Water Are Not A Good Combination

It's essential that timber flooring is cleaned using a minimum of water. Use a damp mop only, never a wet mop, and mop with the grain of the timber not across it.

Don't allow water to stand on the floor and wipe up spills or leaks immediately:

Use a damp cloth for sticky spills if necessary, but be sure to wipe the floor dry afterwards.

Too much water can result in moisture penetrating the finish which could lead to delamination or the cupping of the floor boards.



No Steam Mops!

Don't use steam mops on your timber floors despite what the salesman or TV ads have told you. They force steam, (moisture), into small incisions, breaks or cracks that appear in the surface of your floor and could cause the floor coating to peel and delaminate.

All finishes degrade over time by the process of oxidation - this process is accelerated dramatically by heat.

Cleaning Products To Use

Never, ever use common household products like all-purpose household cleaner, window cleaner, steel wool pads, aerosol furniture polish, wax or similar products to clean your floor.

Some are too abrasive and will scratch the surface, others will make your floor dangerously slippery and could leave a film of silicon or wax in the timber, which will interfere with any future recoating of your floor.

A lot of people might think Methylated Spirits or Kerosene are alright to use. **THEY ARE NOT!** Any type of petroleum distillate will degrade the floors coating over time and eventually cause it to look irreversibly dull and drab.

It is best to use a [good quality floor cleaner](#) and floor polish, making sure you are following their directions for use. There are several excellent quality products available on the market specifically designed for timber floors.

If you are unable to get a hold a timber floor specific cleaning product then as an alternative, use some warm water with a little mild, neutral PH detergent added, this works reasonably well.

Again make sure you squeeze the mop out properly and damp mop only. It's a good idea to buff the floor with a soft cloth afterwards to ensure no water is left on the timber.

Avoid Direct Sunlight

Timber, like many natural materials, will change colour on exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Even an old floor that is re-sanded will expose new timber fibres to direct sunlight and will begin the colour change process.

The amount of colour change is dependent upon the amount of direct and indirect sunlight exposure the timber floor gets and the response of different species of timber is variable.



This colour change can be the most dramatic in the first 6 months after it is sanded and finished.

It's also highly recommended that rugs be moved periodically during this time to avoid leaving areas of uneven colour.

There are many modern homes with huge expanses of unprotected glass allowing intense afternoon sun to beat down directly onto the finished timber floor surface.

The incredible heat generated can literally cook the surface of the timber floor speeding up the process of oxidation, this is a major reason besides dirt and grit that all floor finishes and coatings degrade. It also increases the chance of the floorboards cupping.

Timber floorboards cup for only one reason - that is from gaining or losing moisture faster on one side than the other. The heat beating on the timber surface dries out moisture from the topside of the boards making them drier than the bottom.

The boards cup away from the area of highest moisture with the top edges curling upwards towards the board centre.

To avoid unwanted colour change and the possibility of the floorboards cupping, as well as the accelerated degradation of the timber finish, it is best to filter the sunlight that shines directly onto your timber floors with blinds, drapes or window tinting.

Periodically Recoat

Your hardwood floor should be recoated when the original finish shows signs of wear, but before it has worn down to bare wood. Once worn to bare wood, the floor will stain easily and may require complete re-sanding.

The recoating process only requires the floor to be cleaned down and then abraded, after which another coat of finish is applied. It is a much simpler and less costly process than re-sanding.



If you are unsure of the condition of your floor contact a timber flooring professional for inspection and advice.

Move Your Rugs!

Don't place rugs on the floor for at least 2 weeks after the final coat is applied. Then place mats at all exterior door entrances, preferably inside and out. Place area mats in front of the sink and rugs down hallways and other heavy traffic areas.

! Important Tip!

Be aware that some rubber backed rugs, foam backed rugs and non-slip pads contain additives that may discolour the floor.

Periodically move your rugs around to avoid irregular dis-colouration patches from direct and indirect light exposure.

Regular Inspection

And finally do inspect your floors regularly for any signs of damage or wear and take the appropriate action. This step alone can save you much heartache and money.

Early intervention in most cases means minor problems are fixed without the expense and disruption or re-sanding the entire floor.

How To Clean Bamboo Flooring

From Light Cleaning To Heavy Scuff and Stain Removal

Cleaning Bamboo Flooring is relatively easy, as this material is naturally quite hard, and is more resistant to water damage than similar hardwood floors.

However there are regular maintenance tasks that have to be performed periodically if you want to keep the bamboo looking its best.

The following tips are general guidelines. However, you should always follow any manufacturer provided instructions when caring for a Bamboo Floor.



You should also be familiar with the warranty, if any, that was provided with the floor so that you do not take actions that can void it.

Dust, Dirt, and Grit: Regular Cleaning Procedures

The main culprit in the deterioration of a Bamboo Floor is going to be tiny particles of dirt and sand that are carried into the room on people's shoes.

When these tiny particles are walked on, they can dig down into the finish of the floor causing dents, divots, or even scratches, giving the bamboo a faded look.

This can be prevented by regularly mopping, sweeping, or vacuuming the floor. In some cases you may need to do this on a daily basis, depending on how much traffic the room gets.

- ✗ Do not use a vacuum that has a beater bar to clean a Bamboo Floor.
- ✗ Never use hard bristled brooms on your Bamboo Floor .
- ✗ Never immerse the floor in water. Only a damp, almost dry mop should be used.

Heavy Bamboo Floor Cleaning

While most hardwood floor cleaners can be used on a Bamboo Floor, you want to make sure that anything you use is non-alkaline, non-abrasive, and is not a floor wax. You should also avoid using oil soap or scouring powder.

If you are unsure of what cleaning product to use you should consult with the flooring retailer that you purchased the material from.

Bamboo is slightly more resistant to water damage than regular hardwood floors; however it is still susceptible to warping if excessive moisture is present.

When using a cleaning agent that needs to be mixed with water follow the directions carefully.

Avoid using steel wool when cleaning a Bamboo Floor. A sponge or clean rag can be dipped in the solution then wrung dry, so that the material is only slightly damp. Make sure that the cleanser is applied to all parts of the floor evenly. Do not allow it to pool or puddle. When you are done a dry towel can be used to wipe up any excess moisture that may be present.

Natural Bamboo Cleaning Solution

You may not know this, but an effective, all natural Bamboo Floor Cleaning Agent might already be sitting in your home. If you mix ¼ of a cup of white vinegar, into a litre of water, you will create a solution that will allow you to safely clean the surface of your Bamboo Floors. This cleanser should be applied as directed above, using a damp sponge or rag, wrung dry before application.

Cleaning Scuff Marks

Scuff marks most often appear when the rubber heel of a shoe drags across the surface of your floor. The best way to handle this is to pour a little bit of wood floor cleaner onto a rag, and gently rub it into the bamboo planks where the scuff mark appeared.

More Preventative Maintenance Tips For Bamboo & Timber Flooring

- ❗ A woman in high heeled shoes can do a lot of damage to a Bamboo Floor and timber floor. If you have to wear high heels, make sure that they are in good repair and that there is padding on the tip of the heel.
- ❗ Having a policy of asking people to remove their shoes when they enter the room will help to prevent scuff marks and scratches in the floor, and will cut down on

the amount of small particle debris carried through the room. It will also add to the cultural atmosphere that is evoked by this flooring material.

- ! Keeping your pets nails trimmed is another way to help cut down on scratches in the floors surface. This is especially true with larger dogs as they can cause relatively deep gouges in the wood.
- ! Heavy furniture should never be dragged across a Bamboo Floor or any timber floor for that matter. You should also put thick fabric or felt furniture pads under the legs of heavy pieces, so that they do not sink into the floor and cause divots. If the furnishing has castors they should either be removed or replaced with felt backed casters.
- ! Sunlight can discolour certain types of bamboo. This is especially true when a concentrated beam of sunshine comes in through a window and hits a specific place on the floor each day. You can cut down on discolouration through the use of shades or blinds.
- ! In wet environments, place rugs or mats in front of high moisture areas such as in front of sinks or bath stalls. Make sure that these rugs do not have rubber backing, as that will suffocate the bamboo, making it unable to breathe, causing it to discolour.
- ! The colour of a Bamboo Floor can fade slightly over time. By periodically rotating your furniture you can ensure that this fading happens evenly across the entire surface of the Bamboo Floor.

How to Clean and Care for Laminate Floors

Laminate floors are popular because they are hard to damage and easy to clean and care for.

Here we show you how to care for them in the right way:

1. First, carefully and thoroughly read the warranty and care instructions provided by the floor's manufacturer. Follow these instructions, or ask your office cleaning service to follow them, as accurately as possible, and consult them if there is a problem.



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2. Ask the manufacturer for post-installation cleaning instructions, because you may not be able to mop the floor for the first 48 hours after it has been installed, or there may be special care instructions depending on the brand of the floor.
 3. Laminate Floors should not be wiped with a wet mop because water may leak behind the baseboards and under the floor creating puddles and damaging them. To clean them, use a vacuum and a damp mop.
 4. You should **never apply a Wax or Acrylic Floor Finishes** to Laminate Floors.
 5. If there is a stain, use only the stain removal products recommended by the manufacturer. You will discover that many articles or publications suggest the use of acetone for cigarette burns and nail polish spills, and mineral spirits for grease and tar.
 6. Get doormats for the garage and outdoors doorways. These will catch grit that may slowly scratch the floor's surface.
 7. Put [floor protectors](#) on the feet of furniture to avoid scratching the floor.
 8. When moving a big piece of furniture or a heavy appliance across a Laminate Floor, use dollies, otherwise, you may scratch it with minute stones that are trapped under the furniture's feet or under the wheels.

A lot of the precautions you must take to protect your Laminate Floor when working with sharp or heavy objects are based on common sense.

For example, if you are going to install a ceiling fan or are going to use a drill, place a thick cloth or piece of carpet under the area to protect the floor, because you can damage it if you drop something by accident.

Prevention & Maintenance of Laminate Floors

1. Never steam clean your Laminate Floor.
2. Reduce your amount of routine Laminate Floor cleaning by placing doormats in front of entrances to prevent dirt and gravel from getting traipsed in.
3. Keep Stiletto Heels off your Laminate Flooring to avoid damage.
4. When mopping, don't apply water directly to the floor, just dampen the mop itself.

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5. Avoid flooding your Laminate Floors with water or cleaning products.
 6. When cleaning Laminate Floors, never use harsh or abrasive cleaners, steel wool, scouring powder, or soap-based detergents. [Recommended.](#)
 7. Never wax, lacquer, or polish your Laminate Floor.
 8. Laminate Flooring should never be refinished or sanded.
 9. Add [glides](#) or [floor protectors](#) to the feet and corners of heavy furniture.
 10. When [moving furniture](#), lift it, don't drag it.
 11. Wipe up all liquid spills immediately.
 12. Consider placing runners or area rugs in particularly high traffic areas. Take care to avoid backings that will damage your Laminate Floor. If possible, consult the manufacturer's guide or a sales associate to find out if the rug or runner is compatible.

Floor Protection

Floor protectors are an essential part of caring for timber and Laminate Floors

If you have timber floors and you want to avoid having them damaged by furniture you will need to consider fitting good quality floor protectors.

Use high density [felt floor protectors](#) on the underside of all moving furniture or furniture that may be moved from time to time to help prevent premature wear and scratches.

There are a couple of choices on the market and each have their upsides and downsides. Finding good quality floor protectors is a hard task.

If you are looking for, long term floor protection products, that won't come off, and last a long time, then you cannot go past a product called, "[Slipstick Foot](#)".

They have a comprehensive range of "[furniture sliders](#)" for chairs and barstools, a range of "[furniture grippers](#)" to stop your furniture moving and a range of "[castor](#)



[cups](#)", as well as "[furniture movers](#)". All designed around durability and multiple uses for most types of furniture.

If you only want something quick, easy and inexpensive and not worried about long term, then felt floor protectors will do the job.

Removing Scratches and Dents on Hardwood Floors

The last thing owners of hardwood floors want to see are scratches and dents in their beautiful floors. However, scratches and dents in your hardwood floors are often hard to avoid. With even the most carefully protected floors, scratches and dents are bound to happen from time to time.

Depending on the severity of the scratch or dent, you have some options available to you in terms of how you can properly fix the damage to your hardwood floors. When it comes to fixing scratches in hardwood floors, you are usually dealing with a light scratch or one that is deeper and goes into the actual wood. For depressions in hardwood floors, these are usually dents made in the wood. With the proper materials, neither of these is difficult to remove.

Scratches are generally removed by filling in the scratch or sanding the wood floor down to remove the scratch. To remove light scratches, you'll need some almond oil or an [almond stick](#) and a "[0000](#)" [Superfine steel wool pad](#). Rub with the grain along the length of the scratch; rubbing against the grain can cause more scratches that you will have to fix later on.

Once you can no longer see the scratch and the wood is smooth, follow by rubbing with a clean soft cloth.

There are also wood repair kits that you can purchase that contain touch up marker pens and wax sticks in multiple stains and finish colours. If you don't want to purchase a [complete repair kit](#), you can also purchase individual [touch up markers](#) in the shade you need to match the stain or finish on the floor.

Some scratches, though, are more difficult to deal with and require some additional work. In this case you would need to call in a professional floor repairer.

Caring For Outdoor Furniture

Caring for your outdoor furniture is as crucial as the initial purchase. Of course, the type of care that it requires depends on the type and quality of material that is used, and the weather conditions.

Here are some tips to get your tired pieces looking fresh for Spring and Summer again.

Timber Outdoor Furniture

For wooden materials, it is important to clean the wood if the furniture is dirty or has Mould, Algae or Mildew. Regular cleaning is important for any wooden furniture, no matter the quality of the timber.

Next, sanding the piece may be required. It is important to use sand paper grit 150 or 180, which will not be too rough on the timber. Often if lower grades of timber are not sanded and left untreated, they become rough, dry and grey.

The final step is to oil or stain the piece. The importance of using oil which is specially made for the type of timber utilised in your outdoor furniture is often overlooked. Always make sure you follow the specific instructions given on the container, as these instructions often vary.

When the **outdoor furniture oil** is applied it should be left to dry. Use a brush to apply the oil or stain. The oil should be left to set, while the stain should be wiped lightly with a clean cloth. This will allow the grain to be seen more clearly.

The number of coats applied will depend on the level of opacity required, however one-two coats is usually enough. If you want to have the furniture looks glossy, apply a varnish lightly with brush.

For outdoor furniture which is not made from A-grade teak, it is recommended you sand and re-oil twice a year.

Handy Tip: For outdoor furniture that is exposed to direct weather, it's a good idea to buy some covers to avoid direct exposure to extreme weather conditions. It doesn't matter how well you treat wood furniture, if it has direct exposure, it will deteriorate much faster.



Stainless Steel Outdoor Furniture

When purchasing your outdoor furniture, it is important that you look for products which use good quality stainless steel in the joints and fittings, such as grade 304. Quite often in outdoor furniture grade 301 is used, which rusts more easily when exposed to the elements, due to lower amounts of chromium and nickel.



The best way to maintain stainless steel products, and keep them rust-free, is to use a good quality “stainless steel liquid metal polisher” and polish in the direction of the grain.

Cane & Wicker Outdoor Furniture

For cleaning Cane & Wicker furniture, the first step is to use a “soft bristled brush”, to dry brush all surfaces. This will get in between the gaps in the wicker weave and help loosen any dirt. Start with the tightest weave areas then work the brush outward toward the looser weave areas.

Next, simply hose down the wicker, let air to dry, and wipe down with a cloth. Alternatively you can wipe the piece down thoroughly with a damp cloth. For the cushions, the type of cleaning will depend on their fabric.

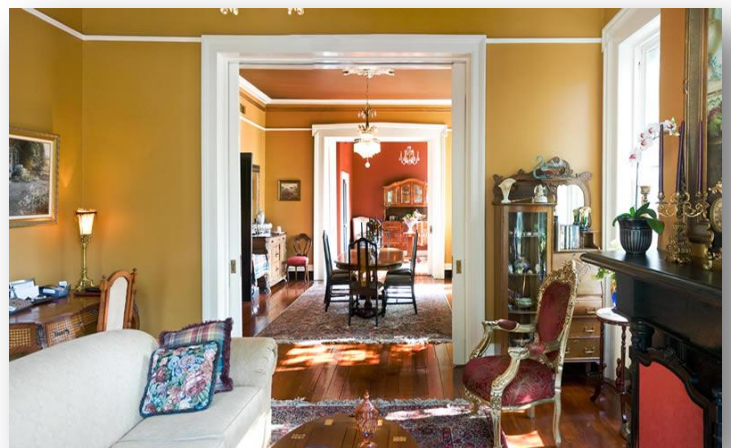


For plastic materials, these can simply be wiped down, while other materials may require more thorough cleaning methods.

Tips on Caring For Antiques

Try not to take your Antique pieces for granted. Avoid letting them accumulate dust & dirt. You should also be careful not to expose these unique pieces to direct sunlight or water.

Different Antiques require different cleaning methods and to make sure they hold their value, it's a good idea to make the extra effort to learn how you should approach your collection. Here are some helpful guidelines you can refer to for caring for your valuable Antiques.



Protect from sunlight: Direct and long-term exposure from the heat of the sun will destroy Antiques little by little. Take care of your Antique furniture by strategically placing it away from direct sunlight. You may need to close your blinds to avoid the direct rays from the sun.

Cleaning: Clean your furniture thoroughly by using a clean duster or [polishing cloth](#). Always make sure you use a [good quality silicone free furniture wax](#) to polish the wood, this will help remove the grime and dirt that may have already accumulated.

Avoid using “Aerosol Spray, Waxes and Polish” that contain silicone oil, because they can really damage the furniture.

Silicone is put into Furniture Polish to make application easy and buffing off easy, but, if you ever need to have the piece of furniture you are polishing repaired or refinished, it creates all sorts of problems for the repairer.



The repairer is unable to remove the silicone residue or film that's left on the surface which then causes the new lacquer being applied to bubble and not adhere to the surface as it is supposed to.

Long term use of Silicone Polishes on furniture can cause the lacquer on the surface to crack, split and break down.

You may clean your furniture with a [good quality Furniture Wax](#) or [Furniture Oil](#) every 3-6 months. Look for a good quality, “Silicone free” furniture polish that is suitable for regular use in between long term waxing.

Proper waxing or [oiling](#) of Antique Furniture will protect it and add many more years to its life.

Antique Repairs: When your Antique has some defects, have it repaired by someone who specialises in repairing and restoring Antique Furniture - and knows how to preserve the finishes of old furniture.

Breakages: Avoid attempting to re-attach a part of your furniture that is broken when you are not sure how to do it. If possible, immediately, contact a Professional Antique

Restorer to repair the item. You wouldn't want to damage your Antique piece further, especially if you are inexperienced in that field.

Insects/Woodworm: Having small round holes with a pale-coloured powder is a sign that your furniture is infested by insects, termites or woodworm. This infestation may, if not treated immediately, damage and weaken the structure of your furniture.

If you find this sign, take the infested furniture away from other furniture and treat it with the right insecticide product as soon as possible.

Woodworm dust



Scratches: Check to see how deep the scratch on your furniture is before you do anything. If the scratch is just on the surface and has not damaged the wood, you can simply colour the affected area with a [scratch fix pen](#).

But, before you apply a colour, ensure that you know the surface finish of your item - if it's a Wax, Varnish or Shellac.

However, if the scratch has gone through the wood on your furniture, you'll have to contact a professional Furniture Restoration Expert, who can help you repair the item.

General Antique Furniture Care

- ✗ Avoid placing Antique Furniture in front of a window or direct sunlight.
- ✗ Avoid placing Antiques near air conditioning and heating vents.
- ✗ Don't place your Antique Furniture near fireplaces and stoves.
- ✗ Blot up spills immediately.
- ✗ Dust regularly using a lint free cloth.

It's worthy to note that not all Antique Furniture has significant monetary, artistic or historical value. The notion that removing the finish from any Antique or Collectible piece of furniture destroys the value is only exaggerated by the simple misinterpretation of comments such as those seen on popular television shows.

Many Antiques increase in value after the proper restoration or complete refinishing and repair. Consult a professional when in doubt.

As always, it's best to err on the side of caution when considering a course of treatment or repairs to your Antique Furniture.

If you believe you might possess a piece with significant historical value or provenance, it's best to consult a Licensed Antique Dealer for values, and Antique Furniture Restorer for any repairs or restoration.

I hope you enjoyed the guide and that some of the information helped you in some way.

If you would like to get more how to information on videos go to my [You Tube Channel](#)

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