Teak
Care & Maintenance

Material Properties

Contrary to popular belief, teak furniture does not require any special maintenance routine or any additional protection apart from occasional cleaning. Left to weather naturally, teak will turn from a golden-brown colour to a light silvery grey as the pigments in the surface layer of the wood begin to fade away. This process will take from 6 months to 2 years, depending on the location, and the elements.

Indospace does not apply any 'finishes' to our teak. All of our teak has a natural finish. Some of our products are just sanded to a very fine finish (normally 220 grit). Other products are then subject to buffing. Buffing brings the natural teak oils to the surface and burnishes the teak to an ultra-smooth surface which has a slight gloss, adding more richness and colour to the teak surface. Buffing is a cosmetic process - it is not meant to last. It will quickly disappear when exposed to the elements (rain and sun), or when the furniture is cleaned with water.

We recommend that you allow your teak furniture to weather naturally and simply clean thoroughly once or twice a year with either a water and mild detergent solution or ideally, our Teak & Upholstery Cleaner. Teak furniture may also benefit from an occasional light sanding to remove any raised grain and restore a smooth finish to the surface. Under no circumstances should a power washer be used to clean teak as this will erode the soft surface and leave it rough to the touch. Indospace Teak & Upholstery Protector can be also applied over the weathered surface to help repel moisture and to protect the teak from staining from foods and drinks. Apply the Teak & Upholstery Protector once a year to give the best results and twice a year for table tops (in April and October) to help protect these more exposed horizontal surfaces during the winter months.

To keep teak looking the same as it does when it is fresh out of the box, it should be sealed when new with Indospace Teak Sealer. This will help to maintain the natural, brown colour of fresh teak, without darkening the teak too much. Indospace Teak Sealer should be applied to furniture once a year. Indospace Teak Protector should then be added on top of the sealer to help repel moisture and to prevent stains.

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 after a short while will start to peel off. We do not recommend the use of teak oil or any other wood oil on teak that is to be used outdoors. Teak is already a naturally 'oily' wood and the addition of further oil does not add any additional protection. If oiled regularly, mildew can start form on the oils left on the surface and the teak will gradually turn black. This black colouration can then only be removed with aggressive sanding.

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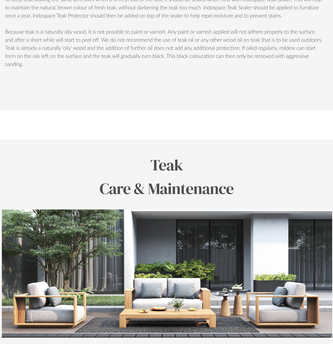

Our teak is kiln dried to a moisture content of 12%. Once dry, the timber can still absorb moisture, which causes 'movement'. Timber will naturally expand and contract with changes in temperature and humidity. Outdoors this is more extreme than indoors. This is why outdoor furniture traditionally has slats rather than wide boards. Although we design our furniture to minimize and accommodate timber movement as much as possible, it cannot be prevented entirely. If you intend to store your furniture over the winter, we recommend that you do so in a dry garden shed or garage. However, we advise that you do not move teak furniture from the garden straight into a heated indoor room for storage, as the sharp differences in temperature and humidity may cause excessive 'movement' and result in splits.

The appearance of oil on the surface of teak furniture is a normal occurrence. The natural oils present in teak are what make it the best timber for outdoor furniture and a high oil content is an indicator of high quality teak. Without these oils, the timber would not survive the extremes of temperature and humidity that outdoor furniture is normally exposed to. The oils and pigments within the surface layer of the teak will gradually start to be washed out during the first few exposures to rain. This is a perfectly natural occurrence and the bleeding will subside over time – around 2-3 months depending on the environment the furniture is placed in.

Avoid placing new teak furniture on light coloured, porous stone patio surfaces until the bleeding process has subsided. Also, avoid leaving cushions that are covered in light coloured fabrics on or near to teak furniture during wet weather for the first few months of exposure. The amount of oil that washes out of the teak in the first few months will be higher, and therefore more likely to cause staining of surfaces and fabrics. If cushions or fabrics do become stained by the oils in the teak, we recommend the use of our proprietary Upholstery Cleaner, or for more stubborn stains to use the Oil Soap to clean the fabric.

Occasionally, wasps can be seen to attack and 'strip' the surface of teak. They do this to make their nests during the main nest building time of spring to early summer. Unfortunately, the softer part of the grain found on weathered teak outdoor furniture is often the perfect material for them. There is no way to prevent this happening other than to destroy the wasps and the nests.

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Cleaning with Teak & Upholstery Cleaner

1. Before using Teak and Upholstery Cleaner, eye protection and rubber gloves should be worn.
2. Cover the ground under your working area before cleaning.
3. Moisten the surface to be treated thoroughly with clean water beforehand.
4. Spray the cleaner onto the wet stained area and let it soak in for 3 minutes.
5. Remove any dirt and grease with the scrubbing pad supplied with the cleaner.
6. Rinse the treated surface thoroughly with clean water and allow to air dry.
7. Once dry, use Teak & Upholstery Protector to make the treated surface water repellent again.

Protecting with Teak & Upholstery Protector

1. Before using Teak and Upholstery Protector, eye protection and rubber gloves should be worn.
2. Cover the ground under your working area before cleaning.
3. On new teak, first use Teak and Upholstery Cleaner to help remove the natural teak oils on the surface of the teak.
4. On dirty or weathered teak, first use Teak and Upholstery Cleaner to remove all stains.
5. Allow to dry completely.
6. Shake the bottle of Teak and Upholstery Protector for at least one minute before use.
7. Spray directly onto the surface in such a way that the surface is soaked completely and allow to dry for 4 hours.
8. Repeat this application and allow to dry completely for 48 hours before further use.
9. It is recommended that you repeat the treatment with the once a year Teak table tops twice a year).

Sealing with Teak Sealer

1. Before using Teak Sealer, eye protection and rubber gloves should be worn.
2. Cover the ground under your working area before cleaning.
3. On new teak, first use Teak and Upholstery Cleaner to help remove the natural teak oils on the surface of the teak.
4. On dirty teak, first use Teak and Upholstery Cleaner to remove all stains.
5. If the cleaned wood feels rough, sand lightly before treating.
6. Make sure the wood is 100% dry and free of dust before application of sealer.
7. Shake the bottle of Teak Sealer for at least one minute before use.
8. Try the sealer on a small invisible area first to judge if the colour meets your expectations.
9. Apply a very thin layer of Teak Sealer evenly over the furniture with the cloth supplied.
10. Apply a second thin coat of Teak Sealer after 30 minutes drying time.
11. Re-treat your teak at least once a year.

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Do's and Don'ts of Teak Care

Do clean teak gently using water and mild detergent for regular cleaning.
Do clean using cloth, sponge or soft brush.
Do use Teak & Upholstery Cleaner once a year for best results.
Do use the supplied abrasive paper to remove and surface scratches or marks that otherwise cannot be cleaned.
Do always sand in the same direction as the timber grain, never across the timber grain.

Don't use a pressure washer on teak furniture.
Don't use stiff or wire brush, or steel wool. This may remove the softer part of the grain, and leave unwanted textured surface, and steel may stain the teak with rust spots.
Don't use bleach as this will discolour the timber.
Don't apply paints, oils, varnishes or stains other than Teak Sealer and Gloster Teak & Upholstery Protector.

Teak Protector

Our teak tops are already treated with Teak Stain Protector, an invisible timber impregnator that makes the table top water & oil repellent while maintaining the beautiful teak colour. For the longer life span of these tables and benches, we advise to apply the teak stain protector once every 6 months.

Why is it so much better than teak-oil/sealer:

- It maintains the golden-brown colour of teak for a longer time.
- Teak-oil often causes black spots on teak. Our protector prevents black spots.
- Our teak protector is not an oil and it is not greasy, so clothes stay clean.
- Most teak-oils/sealers contain hazardous solvents/vocs. Our protector is completely water-based and solvent-free that is why we call it EcoSafe.

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Teak Shield

An almost invisible wood impregnator that makes it difficult for wine, olive oil or butter to seep into teak. Also very suitable for the protection of indoor wooden furniture. For the longer life span of these tables and benches, we advise to apply the teak stain protector once every 6 months.

- Helps to prevent stains while keeping the natural look of the surface
- Allows moisture vapour transmission
- With built in Mould & Mildew inhibitor
- Also maintains the beautiful patina grey teak colour for longer