

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW FURNITURE MADE OF SOLID WOOD FROM FERM LIVING!

Wood is a natural material – no two pieces of wood are the same – which is why there are no two identical pieces of furniture. Wood changes constantly, which means that its structure and colour change over time.

The biggest changes take place at the start of a piece of furniture's life.

Solid wood is affected by seasonal changes in humidity. During the summer, wood expands and may cause table tops to bow slightly. During the winter, the wood contracts again. Wood movement – expanding and contracting – can cause 'checks' (small splits and cracks between the veins of the wood). However, these are completely unimportant and can usually be successfully treated (oil treatment).

Oak wood contains tannic acid, which in some cases may come to the surface during conventional drying or treatment of the wood and cause wood to appear darker. This is not a flaw in the wood but a natural reaction. This dark colour – tannic acid – can be washed out of the wood using a wood cleaner.

To maximise the lifespan of wooden furniture, it is important to ensure that it is continuously cared for and maintained. Below are tips on how to best treat and maintain furniture made of solid oak.

OIL TREATMENT

Using neutral oil will help the wood to retain its beautiful golden colour. For a lighter/white surface – or for the maintenance of white-pigmented oiled furniture – treatment with white-pigmented oil is recommended. These oils are based on the finest and purest oils, have a water-repellent effect and protect the wood from drying out.

Apply oil with a soft sponge or soft lint-free cloth in the direction of the wood grain in a continuous thin layer. Allow the oil to dry for three hours, then wipe with a soft, lint-free cloth to remove any excess oil. Daily cleaning (wiping) slowly removes oil from the wood, which is why it is recommended that you treat the wood 4–6 times a year, or as needed. Please read the instructions on the bottle prior to treatment.

WOOD CLEANER

Wood cleaner is used for the thorough cleaning of wooden furniture. It removes oil-based stains, water rings and more. It can also be used to wash tannic acid out of oak wood. Always remember to treat the surface with neutral oil or white-pigmented oil after using wood cleaner.

Always remember to treat the underside of your furniture, otherwise there is a risk that the wood will warp or crack. If the surface of the wood 'rises up' (becomes rough) after treatment, sand it lightly in the direction of the wood grain with fine sandpaper (minimum 200 grit). Never use steel wool!

GOOD ADVICE FOR WOODEN FURNITURE

- Daily cleaning should be done with a clean, well-wrung damp cloth.
 - For stubborn stains, wood cleaner is recommended.
- If the wood surface 'rises' (becomes rough), sand it lightly with fine sandpaper – never use steel wool!
- Treatment, cleaning or sanding of the wood must always be done in the direction of the wood grain.
 - Do not place hot or wet items on wooden surfaces, as this can cause stains/burns.
 - Placing wooden furniture close to strong heat sources (fireplaces and radiators) can affect the wood and increase the risk of warping.
- Wood should never be permanently covered with airtight materials (oilcloth) for extended periods.
 - When treating tabletops, treatment should be performed on both sides.