

Maintenance Instructions

Protection

To maintain the finish of your wood products, it is important to eliminate potentially damaging environmental elements such as sunlight, moisture, heat, and humidity. The optimum moisture content for interior wood is 5-10% in most areas of the US and Canada, and 8-13% in southern and coastal areas. Controlling the environment will help to prevent warping and splitting of the wood and crazing of the coating.

To maintain the moisture content in wood, the relative humidity in a room needs to be optimized at 25-55% in most areas of the US and Canada and 43-70% in southern and coastal areas. It is also important to control and prevent extreme temperature variations. Depending on the wear, a good rule to follow is to wax finishes every six months to protect the wood and the finish. A good quality furniture will contain carnauba wax. Wax can be purchased to match tone as well as the sheen of the original finish. Wax a small area first to determine if the product you selected is appropriate.

Care

Always dust with a polish-moistened cloth; dry dusting may scratch the finish. It is a good practice to follow the grain of the wood while cleaning/dusting. Wiping across the grain could cause scratches to appear if the dust contains grit. Residues such as cigarette smoke, cooking vapors, or body oils may accumulate on the finished wood surfaces. For these types of residues, simply use a damp cloth with a small amount of furniture cleaner. Apply the appropriate amount of pressure with the cloth to remove the residue from the area. Cloths made of cotton or flannel are soft and absorbent; synthetic materials tend to be the opposite and may scratch the finish.

The most commonly used cleaning agents on the market today are water-based. They are formulated to contain degreasing agents as well as cleaning additives that beautify the wood. Products such as Murphy's Oil Soap[®], Johnson's Pledge[®] household cleaner, or equivalent should be used. A soft, damp cloth with mild soap may also be used for cleaning purposes.

If using this method be sure to rinse the surface with clean water and immediately dry with a soft cloth. Solvent-based cleaners can also be used, but be sure to carefully read the contents of the solvent on the label. Solvents containing silicone may cause fisheyes or craters and cause refinishing difficulties.

For standard lacquer finishes, clean using a damp cotton cloth that is dampened with a mixture of warm water and 1.2% dish detergent or Murphy's Oil Soap[®]. This should be followed by a clean wipe with a cotton cloth dampened with clean warm water. Lacquer-finished can also be cleaned with almost any type of commercial wood cleaning materials.

Home care maintenance products for wood have as objectives to clean and to beautify the wood. A common ingredient is lemon oil, which gives off a pleasant odor when used in combination with



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other cleaning agents. Pure lemon oil, however, only gives short-term protection resulting in a luster that is prone to smudges. Lemon oil contains kerosene, which is harmful to non-catalyzed finishes.

Note: Solvents should not be used in confined spaces. Read the instructions and warning label on all cleaning products before use.

