

# CARING+ CLEANING

## GUIDE FOR OUTDOOR FURNITURE

### TEAK & ALUMINIUM



#### **Terms and conditions (of the guide)**

Wintons Teak endeavour to have all information in this guide correct, however, there can be errors, in such case we apologise for any inconvenience caused and it may be necessary to change information in this guide.

Wintons Teak®

## EXPECTED FEATURES FROM YOUR NEW TEAK FURNITURE

Your new Wintons Teak outdoor furniture is made using 100% A-grade teak. In order to preserve the integrity of the materials, no finishing or chemical agents such as bleach are used in the production of your furniture. This ensures that your outdoor furniture is 100% natural.

Like any other natural materials, teak also exhibits natural variations, which manifest on colour and grain pattern. These variations add character as the timber ages, changing colour and texture over time once exposed to the elements. Below are some of the variations that you should expect from your new teak outdoor furniture.



### COLOUR VARIATION

Variations in colour occurs due to the differing environmental factors such as altitude, soil condition and rainfall. These colour variations occur from light honey to caramel like hues. These variations are inevitable, even with Wintons Teak single origin sourcing. Rest assured that exposure to the sun's ultraviolet light would, to a large extent, even out these colour variations. Wintons Teak recommends exposing your new teak furniture to full sunlight.



### DISCOLOURATION

The furniture that you received may have been kept inside a packaging for a period of time. This causes the wood to lose pigment, which results in a paler and fairer tone. Allowing your furniture to have a sunbath will restore the light honey colour of natural teak. In full sunlight, it should take approximately two weeks for the wood to develop a warm honey colour.



### BURNT CAMBIUM

Wintons Teak kiln dried all its timber to less than 10% in moisture content. Thus, this ensures that the timber is properly seasoned, which prevents warping or splits. As the timber "sweats" inside the drying chamber, cambium and other minerals found on the surface of the timber plank dries out and leaves a burnt mark on the wood. These patina grey hues will fade away once the timber is exposed to the elements for some time. It may take up to four weeks for a stubborn burnt mark to fade.



### CALCIUM DEPOSIT

Another consequence from the kiln drying process is the build up of calcium deposit within the grain of some wood. The white streak occurs mostly on mature wood with high grain density with a high calcium content.

## WHAT TO EXPECT AS YOUR TEAK FURNITURE AGES

As you are making the most of your outdoor furniture, certain wear can be expected. These signs of wear do not undermine the structural integrity of your furniture. Rest assured that Wintons Teak detailed craftsmanship, along with the exceptional timber selection process, ensures that this wear is minimised when compared to inferior products.

### ROUGH SURFACES IN THE FIRST FEW WEEKS

As the timber is exposed to the weather for the first time, its top layer dries out. This leaves dried timber cells accumulating on its surface, causing it to become rough. This is because the natural oil found in teak has not yet risen to the surface to act as a moisturiser.

In few weeks' time, the surface should become smooth while the appearance of very fine filament of dead timber cells should subside.

### SEASONAL MOVEMENT OF TIMBER PLANK

Seasonal movement refers to change in temperature and humidity as the season changes, causing timber to expand and contract. This results in slight adulation on the tabletop surface. Note that these movements will revert as the season changes back and it does not affect the structural integrity and functionality of your furniture.

### END CHECK AND HAIRLINE CRACK

Over time, cracks may appear at the end of one of the timber components of your furniture, such as the top of the legs or end of the arms. These are known as 'end checks'. This occurs because the end surface dries at a faster rate compared to the core component. Thus, the core acts as a restraint to the ends and causes them to crack. Hairline cracks may be found at the surface due to extremely low moisture content. Note that these two types of cracks/checks are normal for any timber, including teak, and do not affect the structure or the product's lifespan.



### MOULD/FUNGI SPORES ON THE SURFACE

Mould grows on wood that has not been properly seasoned. Wintons Teak kiln dries its timber to less than 10% in moisture content. This ensures that mould will not grow in from its surface.

However, mould can grow on dirt and foreign objects resting on top of the wood. Regular cleaning of wood minimises mould/fungal growth. Mould can also grow when the furniture is kept enclosed in a damp and humid environment.

Please make sure that you place your outdoor furniture in an outdoor environment with some sunlight and airflow.

If mould growth is spotted, please ensure that it is cleaned immediately using warm water (boiling water for stubborn growth – please take caution when cleaning with boiling water, as the slatted timber top allows boiling water to drip through). Use a soft bristled scrubber to remove excess fungal growth, then wipe clean.

### TEAK OIL LEACH

A-Grade Teak contains natural oil which potentially leaches onto fabric and tiles. Please ensure that all tiles (especially natural stone tiles) are properly sealed prior to installation of your furniture, so that any natural oil dripping from the timber can be easily cleaned. Unfortunately it is not possible to completely remove oil stains from cushion covers unless done through bleaching. Please note only Sunbrella® fabrics can be bleached. Do not bleach Polyester and Olefin fabrics. For more details, please see page 20.

## CARING FOR YOUR TEAK



### HARDWARE MAINTENANCE

Outdoor furniture with moving mechanisms such as extension tables and folding chairs needs to have its hardware tightened up from time to time. If you feel that the armrest is a little shaky or that the folding table is a little loose, it's probably best to check into its hardware.



### CANDLE WAX REMOVAL

Candlelit ambiance sometimes comes with a mess and it can be difficult to remove, especially when the wax is already hardened.

Once the wax is dry, scrape or chip away at the wax using a dull knife, credit card or spatula to remove any excess wax. It's a good idea to vacuum up all wax fragments to remove as much wax as possible.

Next, place a clean paper towel over the wax stain. Once the wax is covered, take a medium warm iron (make sure it is not on steam setting, as it will dampen the paper towel being used), and run it over the stain, moving slowly and applying constant heat. The wax will transfer from the table surface to the paper towels. It is important to use new towels or bags each time. Repeat until all wax is removed.



### MINOR DENT FIX

Even though A-grade teak has one of the highest densities in the timber species, accidents can happen. This can leave a small dent on the surface when using or moving your outdoor furniture which can be fixed with water and iron.

Put a dab of water on the affected area and cover it with a damp cloth.

Then, with your iron on its medium to high setting, hold it over the affected area and make small movements back and forth and in circles. Press down firmly and continue this process and repeat by adding more water until the dents rise up to be flush with the rest of the surface.



## REMOVING FOOD AND OTHER STAINS

Regular use of your outdoor furniture means that it can get stains from food and drinks. Stains from food and drink. Please wipe off any food stain as soon as possible, any remaining stain will be bleached through a direct exposure to sunlight. Allow for approximately up to 2 weeks for the sun to bleach any food stain.

For stubborn stains, use 150 grit sandpaper on the affected area, and sand along the direction of the grain. This process will remove the top layer of the wood and

along with it, the stain. Make sure that the timber is dry prior to sanding.

### PLEASE NOTE:

This cleaning process will expose the warm honey hue of new teak. Therefore, we recommend that you only rub the affected areas to preserve the grey patina finish. Then leave your furniture under direct sun exposure to even out the grey patina.

## AVOID !

### DO NOT COVER YOUR OUTDOOR FURNITURE WITH PLASTIC COVER

Please do not cover your furniture with plastic and fabrics, including "breathable" outdoor furniture cover. Any covering will prevent natural airflow, which causes the timber to sweat, increases humidity and causes the timber to become mouldy.

### USE THE FURNITURE AS INTENDED.

It is important not to sit on the armrests, tabletop or to pivot on the chairs. Do not drag tables, as this will cause their legs to crack. Always lift a table to move it about.

### DO NOT EXPOSE YOUR FURNITURE TO EXTREME TEMPERATURES OR MOVE IT BETWEEN PLACES WITH LARGE TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCES.

Do not directly expose teak to extreme hot or cold temperatures, such as a hot saucepan/flame or dry ice. This will leave a mark on the furniture. Do not move your furniture between two extreme temperatures, such as from a heated indoor space to the open air in winter. This may cause the timber to shrink/expand and make the joints crack.

### DO NOT USE EXCESSIVE FORCE TO CLEAN YOUR FURNITURE.

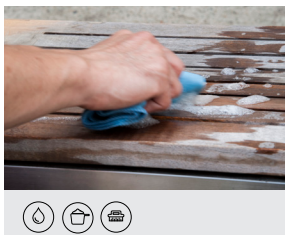
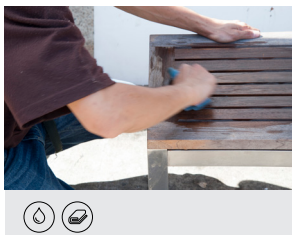
Excessive force from a power washer or sandblaster will erode the surface of the furniture making the surface feel rough and abrasive and susceptible to splinters. The excessive force from a power washer or sandblaster damages the joinery and causes it to split. Never use a power washer or sandblaster.

## HOW TO REJUVENATE TEAK FURNITURE

A-grade teak, unlike any other wood, needs no regular maintenance. As such, you are spoilt for choice of either having an aged teak look with character, a washed teak look and a new teak look.

### PRESERVING THE AGED TEAK LOOK

A thin layer of grey patina should become visible after 4 months in the weather. The greying process will continue for up to 18 months, when the timber will become as grey as it gets.



### TOOLS

-  WATER
-  WASHING POWDER
-  BRISTLED SCRUBBER
-  CLOTH

### CARING FOR YOUR TEAK

Dirt and dust can be removed by rinsing the teak with cold water. Allow the water to drip through till bone dry. Then wipe with soft cloth. Please note that this cleaning process will remove some patina and will make your teak brighter. Simply leave your furniture under the sun to even out the affected area to grey.

## ATTENTION !

### PRESERVING GREY PATINA



This cleaning process will both clean the stain and the grey patina hues, which will result in different shades on your teak. Hence, you should expose it to direct sun to even out the colour should you wish to retain the grey teak look.

## TURN AGED TEAK INTO WASHED TEAK

The washed teak colour can only be achieved once your furniture has turned grey. Washed teak has some grey patina restored into the timber grain, which gives a lighter wood tone from the aged teak or the new teak look.



### TOOLS

-  WATER
-  WASHING POWDER
-  BRISTLED SCRUBBER
-  CLOTH

## WASHING AWAY THE GREY PATINA





In order to remove the grey patina on the surface of aged teak, use a solution of warm water and powdered laundry detergent (1 litre of water to 1 scoop of powdered detergent). Use a soft/medium-bristled scrubber to rub in the direction of the wood grain. Repeat the process as necessary.

## RESTORING TO THE ORIGINAL WARM HONEY COLOUR

Restoring your teak to the original warm honey colour means removing the top layer of the wood. A light sand will do the trick.



### TOOLS

-  WATER
-  WASHING POWDER
-  BRISTLED SCRUBBER
-  SAND PAPER

## CLEANING AND SANDING TO WARM HONEY COLOUR

In order to restore the warm honey colour of new teak, start by removing all dirt and dust from your teak furniture. This is the same process as achieving a washed teak look, which is scrubbing the teak with a solution powdered laundry detergent mix with warm water (1 litre of water to 1 scoop of powdered detergent). Wait till it's bone dry, then use 80 grit sandpaper, sanding in the direction of the wood grain, then finish with 150 grit or 240 grit sandpaper, to further smooth out the surface (again, in the same direction of the wood grain).

## ATTENTION

### DISTRESSED TEAK

Cleaning a distressed teak surface is different from a smooth finish teak. The distressed finish on your furniture is achieved through a process of wire scratching the teak. You should avoid sanding the surface of distressed teak as this will smooth out its surface.

The best way to clean the stains on distressed teak is to apply warm water and a washing powder solution, and then clean it with a brush in the direction of the wood grain to reach the deeper area.



## PRESERVING THE NEW TEAK LOOK - THE USE OF COATING

Applying varnish will create a gloss finish, even when you purchase a varnish with a matte effect. Wintons Teak recommends that you apply finishing material to a small underside section of the furniture to test out the gloss effect.



Should you desire to preserve the warm honey colour of a new teak look, the best avenue is to apply a clear marine grade varnish. Unlike other finishes, marine grade varnish takes a while to fade away which minimises maintenance and upkeep.

To achieve the best result, use a cloth secured with rubber band to cover the brush top when applying varnish.

### ATTENTION !

#### REVARNISHING

Once a varnish is applied on your teak furniture, you will need to keep applying the same finishing material once it wears off. This means you are starting a cycle of maintenance. Note that prior to revarnishing, you must ensure a clean and smooth surface. This means any varnish that partially wears out needs to be sanded away, ensuring a smooth and even finish.

## POWDER COATED FINISH QUALITY FEATURES

Powder coating finishes offer excellent adhesion and protection.



### **TOUGHENED METAL FRAME**

Wintons Teak use a steel rod and wooded component inside a hollow metal bar to strengthen it, which is a must for load bearing components.

### **TRAPPED METAL DEBRIS**

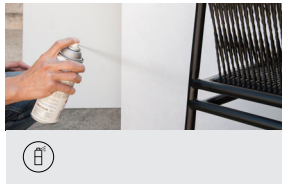
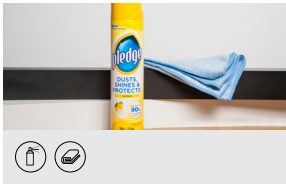
Sometimes, dirt or metal particles may be trapped inside the structure of your furniture. The loose debris causes a trickling water like noise when lifted and turned. This does not in any way undermine the strength or integrity of your furniture.



### **SCRATCHES AND SCUFF MARKS**

Wintons Teak uses a polyester base powder coating finish which protects the aluminium frame from the element. It does not protect against scratches and dents caused by abrasions and collision against hard objects. Minor scratches, marks and missing paint as a sign of frequent use is expected.

## CARING FOR POWDER COATED FINISH



### GENERAL CLEANING


A powder coated finish can be easily cleaned using a general surface cleaner (such as lemon pledge) using a microfiber cloth.

### RESTORING SCRATCHES AND MARKS

As a sign of good use, minor scratches and marks may appear on a coated finish. This can be easily retouched with spray paint (such as Rust-oleum Ultra Cove), which is widely available in hardware stores. Please choose the right colour of the paint and always test it on a small section of the aluminium or disposable paper.



### TOOLS

-  MULTI PURPOSE CLEANER
-  PAINT TOUCH UP SPRAY\*
-  CLOTH

\*Please choose the right colour of the paint and always test it on a small section of the aluminium or disposable paper.

## AVOID !

DO NOT USE ANY KIND OF BLEACH AND ABRASIVE MATERIALS on powder coated surfaces.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO USE THE FURNITURE AS IT IS INTENDED.

This means that it is important not to sit on the armrests or tabletop, or pivot on the chairs.

DO NOT USE EXCESSIVE FORCE TO CLEAN YOUR FURNITURE.

Excessive force from a power washer or high pressure hose will chip the powder coating finish. Never use a power washer or high pressure hose.

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## TEAK & ALUMINIUM



If you have any enquiry  
please contact customer  
service team:

[customer\\_service@wintonsteak.com](mailto:customer_service@wintonsteak.com)

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