

## BEDS

Look after your bed and your bed will look after you!



Just like all our furniture, our beds are designed to withstand general wear and tear. However, we recommend that you follow this advice to keep your bed in top condition for as long as possible to ensure maximum sleep quality throughout the natural life of your bed. As you are about to spend a third of your time in your new bed, it makes sense to take good care of it.

### Tips and Secrets

- Never fold or bend the mattress. This will distort the spring unit.
- Modern spring interior mattresses cannot be rolled for storage.
- Sitting on the edge of your mattress for long periods can affect its shape.
- Lively children may use your new bed as a trampoline. This is not recommended if you want to prolong the lifespan of your bed.
- Use mattress handles, if provided. Do not overload divan bed drawers.
- Check that legs & castors are tightened fully from time to time.
- Turn down the bed clothes each morning to allow the bed to cool down and breathe.
- Turn your mattress twice a month for the first 6 months, once a month thereafter. This helps to equalise wear and plump up the fillings. Note that some mattresses i.e. latex may not require turning.
- Take care turning mattresses; do it with someone else especially when they are particular heavy.
- Frequent turning and plumping reduces natural dips and nesting in spring interior mattresses.
- The drawers within a drawer divan are designed to hold lightweight items, such as bedlinen, and not be overloaded.
- Where fitted, headboard bolts and legs need to be tightened at regular intervals to prevent causing damage.



### Stop Spills Becoming Stains

- Ensure that spillage is simply mopped up quickly with a clean, dry cloth.
- Always use a quality mattress protector that can be cleaned.

### Cleaning

- Never wet clean your mattress. Clean your bed with a soft brush.
- If your mattress does become wet, stand it on its side to minimise the penetration of moisture and allow it to air away from direct heat.

## CABINET FURNITURE

How to prolong the life of your cabinet furniture



When buying cabinet furniture, you are doing so with a view to keeping it for a long time. It makes sense to look after it from day one. With consistent care and maintenance your investment will stay beautiful for many, many years. Simply follow the appropriate guidelines below.

### Tips and Secrets

- Don't place furniture near heat sources or air conditioning units.
- Avoid changes in humidity, and especially steam.
- Always leave gap behind wardrobes/wall units to allow air to circulate.
- Protect furniture from strong or prolonged sunlight.
- Avoid marking furniture with sharp objects, for example when using a ballpoint pen.
- Carefully lift your furniture, never drag or push it.
- Do not rock backwards on dining chairs.
- Always follow fitting instructions for wall-fixing, glass surfaces and shelves.
- Uneven floors could give the impression that doors of wall units and wardrobes are out of alignment, so be aware of this and compensate if necessary by adjusting the hinges or packing a corner to level the item.
- Do not place hot dishes, cups or plates onto any cabinet or table top – use insulated mats as protection.
- Don't overstrain drop flap stays and hinges or place heavy items onto glass shelves.
- Take care not to drag crockery across the wood surface or to put heavy items on the surface without protection.

### Scratches

- With wood products the best way to deal with scratches is to employ the services of a professional polisher.

### Wood Products

- Wood is a naturally occurring product; part of its beauty is that no two pieces can be the same. The depth and shade of colours and grain pattern vary from item to item.

## Regular and Easy Care Maintenance

- Gently dust furniture and polish with a soft, lint free cloth.
- The colour of real wood matures with exposure to light, so it is important to rotate ornaments regularly and expose table leaves to avoid noticeable colour differences occurring.
- Never use silicon or wax polishes that leave residue on surfaces.
- Only use good quality wax-free proprietary furniture polish, where recommended by the manufacturer.
- Disconnect any light fittings from the mains before changing bulbs.
- Dining chair upholstery can be lightly vacuumed or gently brushed to remove dust.



### Stop Spills Becoming Stains

- Blot up any spills immediately.
- Do not try to wash or rub spills and do not use detergents.
- Finger marks can be removed with a clean, slightly damp cloth.
- Protect wood surfaces with felt under-cloths and place mats.

### Cleaning

- Always follow manufacturer's cleaning instructions to the letter.
- Most lacquer or synthetic finishes on real wood give a semi-permanent barrier to make cleaning as easy as possible.
- Assume that all wooden furniture will not resist water, chemicals or heat.
- Natural wax finishes are porous and stain easily.
- Man-made foil and melamine may be dusted or wiped with a damp cloth.
- Clean upholstery at least once a year and before soiling becomes ingrained.

## FRENCH OAK FURNITURE

Discover the real beauty of natural oak



French Oak furniture is made from solid timber. Therefore some movement may occur depending on environmental conditions. If the level of humidity is high the oak absorbs moisture and expands. If the air is dry, some cracks may appear. These should disappear when the moisture content increases. Each piece has its own character and personality with knots, notches and all its specific features and using mature wood increases the

## character and personality. Maintaining the unique character of your furniture is simple.

### Tips and Secrets

**Lacquered Finishes** - To clean the top of your table, use a soft damp cloth. Do not use any detergents or powders.

**Waxed Finishes** - To maintain waxed furniture, apply a thin coat of beeswax several times a year with a soft cloth. Remove the excess wax and allow to dry for up to 24 hours.

If the patina has been removed, apply successive coats of wax to build up the required colour. Allow to dry between coats. The more coats the darker the finish will be.

## GARDEN FURNITURE

With care and attention your garden furniture may last for years



### Tips and Secrets

Wood is a natural material whose appearance will change when left out of doors. The appearance of your furniture will depend on how you look after it. Left on its own, the wood in your furniture will naturally change colour to a silvery grey tone. The exact colour depends on the environmental conditions. For example, dark spots may occur if the furniture is placed in a shady spot under a tree. During long dry spells, small cracks may appear in any untreated wood, especially in the end grain. These cracks are a perfectly normal characteristic and will not affect the strength or durability of the furniture. The cracks should disappear once conditions become damp again. It is usual for small amounts of sap resin to appear on the surface of the wood in certain climactic conditions. If the resin has crystallised, it can be removed using a stiff brush. If it is sticky to the touch, use a sharp knife to remove the majority of the resin and use white spirit to wipe clean the surface residue.

If, however, you wish to preserve the original colour of your furniture, teak oil should be applied every three to six months. Regular treatment will slow down the weathering process and will minimise surface cracks. Before re-applying teak oil, it is essential that any dirt that may have accumulated be removed by scrubbing



with a stiff brush and warm soapy water. When the furniture is completely dry, any rough areas should be lightly sanded. If the dirt and excess oil are not removed prior to re-applying teak oil, black areas will appear where the oil and dirt have mixed. Finally apply the oil, paying particular attention to the end grain, hidden surface areas, and any joints. Any excess oil can be wiped off with a clean cloth. Please ensure that the teak oil is fully dry before using the furniture.

## LEATHER FURNITURE

The natural characteristics of quality leather



### Tips and Secrets

Leather is a natural product. It breathes, its warm and it has individual characteristics, which make each hide unique. Leather will always display traces of its origin. Brands, scars, creases and growth. These hallmarks add character to the suite and do not affect the wearing qualities of the product. Leather is highly resilient and durable and over time, develops a patina that increasingly enhances its appeal. Leather needs very little special care but to get the most out of your investment, you should follow these guidelines.



- Always protect your suite from direct sunlight, as this will otherwise accelerate the natural ongoing discolouration process.
- On pigmented leather, dust should be removed by vacuuming and wiping with a slightly damp cloth, using a solution of warm water and mild soap on a regular basis. Suede, nubuck and aniline leathers require particular care, as they lack a protective coating. Use products specifically designed for these types of finish and follow instructions carefully. Always test any cleaning process on an unseen area.
- Never put leather furniture against any heating source. i.e radiator.
- Do not rub into the leather as this will cause staining.
- Liquids must be quickly raised from the leather by using the edge of absorbent paper towels and then dab the area lightly with clean towels.
- Seat, arm and back cushions should, where possible, be regularly plumped up to maintain the shape of your suite.
- Try to avoid sitting on the edges of the cushions or arms, as this may cause uneven wear and distortion of the padding and leather.
- Where zips are used, these should not be required to be unfastened, as they are there for ease of manufacture.

- Certain non-colourfast clothing such as denim can stain light coloured leather if it comes into regular contact.
- Sharp objects may scratch the surface.
- If you need any additional help or advice, feel free to call in or telephone us to speak to one of our advisers. Further information about leather care can also be found on [www.all-about-leather.co.uk](http://www.all-about-leather.co.uk)

### Variations and Markings

Every hide is different and because the dyes and finishes penetrate to varying degrees in different parts of the hide, an attractive variable finish is achieved with a level of uniformity as consistent as these processes allow. When you consider that it can take as many as eight hides to produce a suite, you can appreciate the skill required to perfect the end result.

The natural marks, grain variations and wrinkles, which appear on each hide, feature in certain areas of the furniture depending on the degree of marking. Heavier marking will appear on the outside backs and sides, or on areas not usually visible such as under seat cushions. The more subtle markings will feature on the more prominent parts of the suite.

Irregularities in the grain, small scars and insect bites and other natural skin marks should not be considered as defects. Only real leather has these characteristics, and they exist as your proof of authenticity. It is perfectly normal for certain areas of leather to show signs of creasing and stretching.

This is not detrimental to the wearing of the leather. Today, due to modern tanning processes and customer demand, leather has such a softer feel and will maintain its suppleness throughout its lifetime. Recommended 'hide foods' will aid the suppleness of leather.

A combination of these factors means that in the first few weeks of use, creases and wrinkles will develop naturally to create a softer more inviting look, an inherent quality of fine leather upholstery.

### Types of Leather

#### Aniline and Sauvage Leather

This is the most expensive type of leather made from the most carefully selected hides. Dyes are impregnated into the skin and the surface remains natural, with little or no pigment finish.

#### Semi Aniline

This process is designed to bring the natural feel and appearance of Aniline into a lower price group. Skins are selected with only slight markings and the dye is impregnated. A light protective coating is then applied to give some degree of resistance to staining, but this makes the leather a little harder to the touch than Aniline.

#### Pigmented Leather

Heavy pigment is applied to cover most of the natural imperfections which exist in every skin. The grain is then embossed onto the skin, and a heavy protective coating is applied, which gives good wear characteristics and high light resistance, with a good solid colour covering and virtually no variation show through. It is less soft to the touch than Aniline, but is particularly easy to care for.

#### Antique Leather

This has a two part surface pigment process, and after the furniture has been made up, part of the top coat is rubbed off by hand to expose the contrast colour underneath, creating an accelerated ageing effect.