



## **TEAK WOOD CARE GUIDE**

Teak outdoor furniture is a great investment that can be enjoyed for many years to come. While teak is a very low maintenance wood, there are some things you should know about caring for your furniture.

### **Graying of Teak**

When left outdoors teak furniture will naturally weather to a silver gray color. You'll begin to notice the 'graying' after few months, depending on the amount of sun and rain your furniture is exposed to. Total weather usually takes about 6 to 8 months. During the weather process a slight 'checking' or roughening of the grain may occur in spots. You may even notice a few small cracks. Checking is not a structural defect, but a perfectly natural process, as the wood expands and contracts, adjusting to the elements. Water spots or other discoloring may also occur during the weathering process. These will eventually even out, and the furniture will take on a uniform silver-gray color.

### **Restoring Color**

The graying of teak is simply a sign that the oil on the surface of the wood is evaporating. As such, your furniture can be restored to its original 'honey' color by cleaning with milk soapy water and a soft bristle scrub brush. Teak cleaners are also very effective and require no heavy scrubbing or polishing. A teak sealer can then be applied after cleaning, which will help maintain the honey color of your teak. Teak sealer needs to be reapplied about once a year, and should not be applied to new teak. Teak should always be clean when sealer is applied. We recommend you apply the sealer in a thin layer.

### **Protecting Teak**

Periodic cleaning of your teak furniture is always a good thing, as it will help to maintain the general appearance, and prevent dirt from building up. Hosing your teak off will do the trick, but we don't recommend a high pressure washer. Clean using a mild solution of warm water and a little detergent. Then rinse with water. In inclement weather, it is recommended to protect furniture by covering with protective covers. If you choose to cover the furniture when not in use for a long time, cover with 'breathable' covers that don't trap the humidity and allow ventilation.

Do not use plastic or vinyl tarps as it can do more harm than good.

### **Scratches and Stains**

Teak is a forgiving hardwood, and scratches, scrapes and stains (like oil or red wine) can usually be removed using a light to medium grade sandpaper.