

Teak is an extremely durable hardwood. It requires little care and no preservatives or treatment of any kind to protect it from the elements. Natural teak will gradually weather to a beautiful silver-gray color if left outdoors. You will begin to notice the "graying" after 3 months or so, depending upon the amount of sun and rain the furniture is exposed to. Total weathering will take about 6 to 9 months. This silvery gray 'patina' which develops over time, gives teak furniture a distinctive appearance. The color resulting from this natural aging process is considered to be very attractive, and allows teak furniture to blend in well with many outdoor environments. Teak left in this state is easily maintained, and needs no treatment whatsoever.

If your teak wood products or furniture is to be used indoors, and away from natural sunlight, over a period of time -perhaps six months to a year - the wood will gradually become a darker shade of brown.

If you wish to maintain the original tawny color of your furniture, you may want to consider a light application of teak oil, see below for further instructions.

Furniture intended only for interior use should be oiled or given a light application of a clear furniture wax such as "Johnson's" paste wax to enhance its appearance as well as for extra protection.

We are often asked about the necessity of oiling teakwood furniture. To begin with, please understand that it is not needed to protect the furniture**. Oiling is done to maintain the warm tones of the wood - it keeps the furniture from weathering to a soft gray color.

To maintain the color, you will need to oil the furniture approximately three times each year. Remember, **teak does not require oiling**. It's completely optional. For a lower maintenance finish, consider using a high-quality teak sealer. Seal will usually last an entire year without needing re-application.

If you do wish to oil, please use the following as a guide:

1. Your furniture **MUST BE** completely dry, otherwise moisture trapped within the wood may cause black mildew spots to appear after oiling. Your furniture may take up to 48 hours to fully dry out after a rain.
2. You must apply teak oil before your furniture begins to weather. If it has begun to weather, scrub your furniture with a stiff poly-bristle brush and soapy water, rinsing as you go with the garden hose. (Note: there are several wood deck cleaners available which will make the job much

easier, or, a pressure washer works wonderfully too.) then allow the furniture to fully dry

3. Ensure the surface is clean and free from dust
4. Use true teak oil - do NOT use "finish". This is available from a store which would stock boating and marine supplies (teak oil is used extensively on boats).
5. The oil can be applied with a clean brush, starting from the top and working downwards. The surface should be left wet by the brush, but try to avoid leaving too much surplus oil behind as you work. After a few minutes - maybe 5 - 15 depending on the ambient temperature, the oil will start to become 'tacky'. At this point the surface of the furniture should be wiped down with a clean cotton rag, carefully removing all surplus oil. One coat is sufficient.
6. Teak oil will trap dirt and darken with age, therefore it will be necessary to scrub off the old oil and recoat periodically (once a year is generally sufficient). Follow the instruction on the teak oil label.

******When used as indoor furniture, a light coating of teak oil is recommended to keep the furniture from soiling and will last for years without need for recoat.