

# TEAK

## **Do I need to clean my teak furniture?**

There isn't a lot of maintenance needed for teakwood furniture. It is really a personal preference on how you want your furniture to look. Some people clean their teakwood furniture every month and others just let mother nature clean it for them. There are a few easy steps to take when you do decide to clean your teakwood furniture. The first thing you will want to do is hose down the furniture with fresh water. The next step is to scrub the wet furniture using a soft bristle brush and a solution of 2/3 cup laundry detergent and 1/4 cup bleach in 1 gallon of warm water. We recommend wearing rubber gloves for this step, so your hands won't smell like bleach. When finished scrubbing, rinse the entire piece with more fresh water to remove any remaining cleaning solution. This cleaning will remove dirt and some stains from food or spilled drinks. For more difficult stains we recommend using our *Three Birds Casual* Teak Cleaner. This will remove some of the silver-gray patina and make the wood a lighter color, closer to the color the wood was when it was new. You can also use a power-washer as a last resort to clean your teak but only on a gentle setting. If you choose this method, we recommend practicing on the bottoms of chairs or tables before you use the power washer on an area that will be seen. We will not warranty products if a power-washer is used on them so use at your own risk.

## **Should I clean my teakwood furniture before using it the first time?**

If you are going to be using cushions, we definitely recommend cleaning the teak before placing any cushions on the furniture. Using a damp cloth, remove any dust that may have attached to the wood by wiping down the furniture. Because teak has a naturally high oil content you can expect there to be some "bleeding" of the oil after the first few exposures to rain/moisture. Bringing cushions inside before rainfall is a good idea for the first several rains. To protect any of your sling furniture, we recommend moving sling chairs out from under teak tables for several rainfalls to keep the oil from getting on the slings. Once the furniture has begun to turn weather (or grey) you won't need to take these precautions and will be able to leave cushions on the furniture and not move sling products.

## **Is there a way to protect my teak table from food/drink stains?**

Besides using table mats or drink coasters we recommend using our *Three Birds Casual* Teak Shield. Teak Shield is a transparent product that forms a barrier against stains from food and drink that might penetrate wood, so that fresh spills can be wiped away with a damp cloth. Teak Shield can be applied to clean, naturally weathered wood, or on furniture that has been treated with *Three Birds*

*Casual* Teak Protector. Our recommendation is to apply Teak Shield two or more times per year dependent on use and exposure.

### **Can I prevent my teak from turning silver-gray?**

If your personal preference is to maintain the golden-brown color the furniture is when you receive it, you will want to use our *Three Birds Casual* Teak Protector. This product will maintain the golden-brown color for approximately one season. Depending on exposure to the elements, we would normally recommend applying protector two times every year. (Once in the spring and once in the fall.) You will need to re-apply protector as you notice your teak starting to get lighter in color. Our Teak Protector can be purchased from the dealer who you purchased your furniture from.

### **Should I store my teak in the winter?**

Your teak furniture does not need to be stored in the winter. Many owners of teakwood furniture leave their furniture outdoors year-round in all types of climates. Harsh weather and snow will not harm the wood or the structure of the furniture. It is really a personal preference whether you store your furniture during the winter months. If you want your furniture to stay the golden-brown color, it is easier to maintain this look if you store your furniture indoors during harsh weather months.

### **What are the small black spots on my teak furniture?**

Teak wood itself will not mildew. However, mildew will sometimes grow on dirt and/or other foreign substances if present. If this happens, follow our recommended cleaning instructions as soon as possible. It is important to remove the mildew right away so the wood is not stained, which can be more difficult to remove.

To prevent the growth of mildew, periodically cleaning your teak to remove things like food and dirt that could promote mildew growth is recommended. Additionally, you can apply Teak Shield as mentioned above.

## **ALL-WEATHER WICKER PRODUCTS**

### **Does the wicker furniture need to be stored in the wintertime?**

We recommend storing your wicker products in a dry location such as a garage or storage shed. Furniture should be stored in its normal, upright position to avoid any type of damage to the structural integrity of the item.

### **How should my wicker furniture be cleaned?**

You can wash the woven material with mild detergent and warm water using a soft brush. After washing, use a hose to rinse with fresh water until there is no soap remaining. Depending on how much dust and dirt is in the area where you live will determine how often you clean your furniture. We recommend giving the furniture a thorough cleaning at least once per year.

## **CUSHIONS, SLINGS AND UMBRELLA COVERS**

### **Do I need to bring my cushions indoors when it rains?**

Because of the natural oil content in teak, you should expect some of this oil to bleed out after the first few exposures to rain/moisture. Taking your cushions inside before they get wet is the best option to avoid the transfer of this oil to the cushions. Teak oil stains are not covered under warranty. Once the aging process of the teak has begun it won't be necessary to take the cushions inside.

### **What happens if my cushions sit out during a long or heavy rainfall?**

If your cushions have been out during a long heavy rain, unzip the cushion and stand it the zipper side in a sunny location if possible. Placing the zipper-side down will allow the water to drain a bit more quickly. You can expect the cushions to dry in 24-48 hours depending on how long they were in the rain and how much water got inside the cushion core. Another determining factor in how long it takes for the cushions to dry is the weather conditions.

### **What is the best method to clean my cushions or umbrella canopy?**

The best way to keep your Sunbrella fabric looking good is to regularly brush off dirt/debris before it can become embedded in the fabric. You will also want to wipe up spills as quickly as possible to avoid staining. If you do need to clean your fabric you can use a mixture of lukewarm water and a mild soap (Dawn dish soap or Woolite) and a soft bristle brush. Rinse the detergent thoroughly and allow the fabric to air dry. For additional care and maintenance suggestions please visit [www.sunbrella.com](http://www.sunbrella.com) and follow the "How to Clean" link.

### **What if I get a really bad stain on my cushions?**

If you have a stain that you cannot get removed using water and a mild natural soap you can use a fabric spot remover. To clean mildew stains, prepare a

solution of one cup bleach and two capfuls of natural soap per gallon of water. Apply to the affected area and allow to soak in. Vigorously scrubbing with a sponge or clean cloth may be necessary for difficult stains. Rinse thoroughly, being sure to remove all detergent and allow the fabric to air dry. Do not use a hair dryer or clothes dryer to speed up the drying process. Furniture covers should not be dry cleaned.

For additional information on how to treat specific stains please visit [www.sunbrella.com](http://www.sunbrella.com) and follow the "How to Clean" link, which will then give you options for additional cleaning instructions, stain removal and tutorial videos that will be helpful.

### **Can I leave my cushions outside during the winter?**

You can leave your cushions outside during the winter season but you will have some cleaning to do when the weather warms up. Harsh winter weather can also speed up the aging process of your cushion cores depending on how severe the weather is in the area where you live. If possible, we recommend that you store your cushions during harsh winter conditions. Cushions should be cleaned and allowed to air dry before placing into storage. If you do store your cushions, we recommend putting them in a dry place where mice or insects won't get into them.

### **Will suntan lotion or oil damage my fabric sling?**

Oil-based products should not come into direct contact with the sling material. If that happens it may cause the fabric to discolor or age more quickly. Prompt cleaning is recommended should an oil-based product come into contact with the material.

### **How do I remove stains from the slings on my furniture?**

In most cases, common stains can be removed if promptly cleaned with warm water and a strong detergent. For more difficult stains, you can use the following treatments:

**-Suntan lotion, oils, or grease:** Rubbing alcohol

**-Mildew:** Strong liquid detergent, warm water, and bleach

**-Berries (juices, wine) or blood:** Strong liquid detergent, warm water, and ammonia

**-Beer and coffee:** Strong liquid detergent, with warm water and white vinegar

**Can I leave my furniture with slings outside during the winter?**

We recommend storing sling products in a dry location such as a storage shed or garage.