

Is teakwood sustainable?

A major red flag for teak buyers is the continued deforestation that takes place in the teak industry. This deforestation often exists in countries that do not have proper legislation around teakwood. Many teak users are unfortunately interested in the bottom line and obtaining teak for the lowest possible price, which often means simply chopping down forests and leaving wide open spaces behind them with no plans for replanting. This hurts both the environment and the economy by removing one of their primary resources and exports due to poor planning.

The best part of using Indonesian teak is that the plantations were planned far in advance, which assists the Indonesian environment and economy! The Indonesian government closely sanctions and controls which of their 3.2 million acres of plantation teak can be utilized each year for logging. Each of these acres is planned out 60 years in advance for the sole purpose of harvesting, just like any other crop. Because teak was becoming such a large export for Indonesia, supplying many factories in Europe, the Indonesian government put legislation in place, making the export unfinished teak illegal. These regulations allow Indonesia firm control of teak production has allowed Indonesia to prosper in a few different ways.

Utilizing teakwood keeps the wood relevant, promoting more plantations! The more wood that Three Birds Casual uses; the more wood is grown. Because more wood is being grown, animals and plants have an expanded habitat, and since the wood is harvested every 60 years, these animals have the proper time and space to exist peacefully alongside the plantations. Even the locals utilize the shade underneath the trees within the plantations, allowing soil fit for vegetation and other crops. Teak manufacturing within the country provides a pillar for the Indonesian economy and supplies an extremely wide number of jobs. It all boils down to a healthy cycle that repeats itself every 60 years, in which every party wins.

Do I need to clean my teak furniture?

There is little maintenance needed for teakwood furniture. Some individuals clean their teakwood furniture every month and others choose to allow it gray naturally. There are a few easy steps to take if you decide to clean your teakwood furniture.

1. Hose down the furniture with fresh water.
2. 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. CAUTION: Please use rubber gloves to avoid direct contact with bleach.
3. 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 Teak.Cleaner which will remove some of the silver-gray patina and make the wood a lighter color, closer to the original color of the wood before weathering. We will not warranty products if a power washer is used on them so use it at your own risk; however, you can 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 in an area that will be seen.

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

If you are going to be using cushions we 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 showers of rain. 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 gray) these precautions can be stopped.

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

Outside of using table mats or drink coasters, we recommend using our Teak Shield which is a transparent product that forms a barrier against stains from food and drink that might penetrate the wood. This protects the wood from fresh spills and allows them to 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 our Teak Protector. Our recommendation is to apply Teak Shield two or more times per year depending on use and exposure.

Can I prevent my teak from turning silver-gray?

If your personal preference is to maintain the original golden brown color of teak; you will want to use our 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 Teak Protector twice each year.

You will need to re-apply protector as you notice your teak starting to get lighter in color. Our Teak Protector and other maintenance products can be purchased from any authorized dealer.

Should I store my teak in the winter?

All-teak furniture does not need to be stored in the winter and is commonly left outdoors year-round in harsh climates. Rain and snow will not harm the wood or the structure of the furniture. However, maintenance of the original brown color of teak is easier when stored inside during winter.

We would recommend storage of cushions and/or products with slings inside during the winter to prolong the life of fabric materials.

Will mold and mildew grow on my teak furniture?

The growth of mold and mildew can be expected on teak furniture in particularly wet and dry climates. This is not an indication of faulty wood, but instead, is a marker of authentic teak wood. This growth is due to dirt and other foreign substances resting on the teak and interacting with the moisture in the air.

To prevent the growth of spots and mildew, clean teak wood if food or dirt is visible on the surface, otherwise periodically wipe down furniture with soapy water. Avoid harsh cleaning solutions and abrasive methods.

Additionally, Teak.Shield can be applied onto table tops and other flat surfaces to further shield table tops.

To remove mildew, use our Teak.Cleaner as directed. If some spots are persistent, use medium grit sand paper to sand the affected areas. This will remove a very thin top layer of the wood to which the growth has attached itself.



ALL-WEATHER WICKER PRODUCTS

Should wicker be stored during the winter?

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 wicker be cleaned?

Wash 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. The amount of dust and dirt in you area of residence affects of often it must be cleaned. We recommend giving the furniture a thorough cleaning at least once per year.

CUSHIONS, SLINGS AND, UMBRELLA COVERS

Should cushions be brought indoors during rain?

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 cushion are exposed to heavy rainfall?

If your cushions have been out during a long or heavy rain, unzip the cushion and point the zipper-side down in a sunny location to allow rapid drainage. Cushions can expect to dry in 24-48 hours depending on the amount of rain and water that got inside the cushion core as well as the weather conditions.

What is the best method to clean my cushions?

The best way to keep Sunbrella fabric looking good is to regularly brush off dirt/debris before it can become embedded in the fabric. Wipe up spills as quickly as possible to avoid staining. If cleaning is needed, use a mixture of lukewarm water, mild soap (Dawn dish soap or Woolite), and a soft bristle brush. Rinse detergent thoroughly and allow the fabric to air dry. [For additional care, check out Sunbrella's guide.](#)

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

If you have a stain that cannot be removed using water and mild natural soap, fabric spot remover can be used. 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 check out Sunbrella's cleaning guide.](#)

Can I leave my cushions outside during the winter?

If possible we recommend storing cushions inside during harsh winter conditions. Cushions can be left outside during the winter season, but they will inevitably get dirty and the weather can shorten their lifespan. Cushions should be cleaned and allowed to air dry before placing in a dry space that mice or insects can't access.

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, 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.