



RAFT

THE NATURAL HOME

TEAK CARE GUIDE

The following guide is to be used as a tool to aid in the upkeep of your sofa and upholstered furniture.

WHY DOES MY TEAK PRODUCT LOOK DIFFERENT TO THE ONE IN THE SHOWROOM?

We reclaim timber and make our furniture by hand. Raft teak is repurposed into beautiful furniture but began its journey as houses, bridges, railway sleepers and boats. The blockings and indentations you may find on yours make up its character and charm. This is the same for the natural variations in the colour of the teak.

The Raft artisans who handcraft your furniture in our factory in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, are local to the area. This fact, paired with their unmatched craftsmanship means that they have an intrinsic understanding of teak wood and pay respect to its roots by refusing to over-polish it.

Authenticity is so important to us, so we choose not to disguise this, celebrating the beauty of the raw material's journey. For this reason, each and every item is guaranteed to differ from the next on the surface. That's what makes it so special.

WHY DOES TEAK GARDEN FURNITURE CHANGE COLOUR?

Did you know that the characteristic golden brown of teak transforms into a silvery grey when seasoned by exposure to sunlight and rain? For us, this is an exciting and beautiful process that is yet another reason why we are so mesmerised by teak. However, for some people it can come as a surprise and make them worry that something has gone wrong.

What is so fantastic about teak is that it's naturally durable and virtually indestructible. It's important to remember that at Raft, our teak is reclaimed and therefore has already lived a life long before it arrives in your home, handcrafted into a beautiful piece of furniture. From boats and bridges to houses and railway sleepers, each piece of teak has a story and a reminder that it is naturally resistant to outdoor elements. This colour change is simply a natural, aesthetic process called weathering.

However, the colour difference does not translate to a change in strength or durability; this remains exactly the same. Not only this, but it also means that you have bought high-quality teak because it hasn't been chemically treated to hide unsatisfactory quality.

HOW TO PREVENT TEAK GARDEN FURNITURE FROM GOING SILVER

At Raft, we're advocates of the relaxed yet refined look. We're mesmerised by the silvery grey patina of teak garden furniture and love to see how nature can transform the natural material we have been so familiar with since 1999. However, we understand that some people just love that golden brown colour and don't want it to change. If this is your situation, we suggest sealing it. This is a coating that protects the colour and prevents it from weathering to a silvery grey.

DEALING WITH MOVEMENT & CRACKING

The movement of wood is as natural as it knots. However, due to the fact that we use a solar powered kiln to dry the wood, this is largely reduced and means less movement in our wood. Even still, within the first twelve months, environmental changes can affect any teak to some degree. We understand this, and therefore, any movement requiring restoration will be dealt with by our skilled restorers in your own home. Drawer runners can also be waxed lightly on the insides of the drawer panel for a smoother pull.

TREATING THE SURFACE OF TEAK TABLES

Our natural teak products are not lacquered or varnished because we want to show the true beauty of reclaimed teak. However, if you would like to treat the wood to maintain its showroom state, we suggest simply using some fairy liquid and water on a lint free cloth and cleaning your table. However, for a more restorative treatment, you can use a fine sandpaper to lightly treat your table every few months. It is only necessary to treat tabletops and surfaces which are exposed to food and liquid products, e.g. coffee tables, dining tables, console tables, bedside cabinets. As there is only a slight change to the colour of the surface you don't need to treat things like legs, chairs or drawers.



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HOW TO CLEAN WHITE RING MARKS / WATERMARKS FROM A TEAK TABLE

White ring marks on items are where moisture is trapped underneath the varnish. If you get water stains or other liquid soils on your teak furniture, a light dusting with 'fine' grade sandpaper will take out most marks. Remember to work along the grain. Depending on whether you're treating dark or natural finish teak, the method varies.

Regarding dark finish teak, you can use a poultice made from cigar ash and olive oil. Just pick a small amount up on a lint-free cloth and lightly rub the surface of the table, with the grain. This will be delicate enough to pull the moisture molecules without damaging the timber. When treating natural teak, simply find a regular scourer, add a light detergent (fairy liquid) to the abrasive side and rub the water stains to remove. Always rub gently with the grain.

HOW TO CLEAN THE INSIDE OF TEAK ROOTS

Just like anything else, your teak root furniture needs to be looked after. Remember that dust can collect inside your teak root unless you're dusting it every now and again so do this to avoid any build up and keep your home clean from the inside out.