

FURNITURE CARE + CLEANING GUIDE

WOOD FURNITURE

Protect the lustre of wood finishes with simple care techniques that work for natural, manmade wood, or wood veneer furniture. Wood is an ancient, reliable material that adapts to many design forms. Its diverse woodgrains and supple surface brings lustrous warmth to any setting.

Manmade woods combine real wood fibres with strong glues to form materials that are durable, and less expensive than natural lumber. They include MDF (multi density fibreboard) and particleboard. These materials are prized in the tropics for superb termite resistance. However, certain man made woods are also sensitive to moisture, so proper care is essential.

Wood veneers convey a sense of luxurious custom design. They add contrast, and dimension to furniture surfaces. Their glowing colours, transparency, and unusual wood grains offer elements of surprise, whimsy, and often, elegance. Veneers are formed by peeling layers of exquisite woods into thin, flexible boards used by furniture makers.

CARING FOR WOOD FURNITURE

- Place furniture away from direct sunlight, which can fade or discolour the wood. Use protective window coverings to filter harmful rays.
- Place furniture away from close contact with air conditioners, which pull moisture from the wood.
- Use felt protective pads under lamps and accessories which can damage wood surfaces. Rearrange these accessories so they do not stay in the same place all the time.
- Use placemats or coasters to protect wood from heat and moisture.
- To avoid ink damage, do not place newspapers or magazines on wood surfaces. Rest them on placemats or corral them on a beautiful tray.
- Dust and polish wood furniture each week, using a microfiber cloth.
- Do not use abrasives (like Comet) or harsh chemicals (like bleach or Pinesol) on wood.
- If you scratch your wood furniture, use a touch-up crayon or marker, usually available in a variety of colours from a hardware or home improvement store.

SPOT-CLEAN WOOD FURNITURE

- Wipe up food stains immediately, then polish the wood with a clean cloth.
- **Remove cloudy stains.** Make a solution with one tablespoon of white vinegar in one quart of water. Dip a clean cloth in the solution. Rub in the same direction of the wood grain until the surface is thoroughly dry. Then apply a furniture oil or silicone-free polish such as Guardsman or Heritage.
- **Remove water rings.** Mix equal parts white vinegar and cooking oil. Using a clean cloth, rub in the same direction of the wood grain.
- **Remove candle wax or chewing gum.** Briefly place an ice cube over the wax or gum to harden it. Make sure you wipe up any melting water to prevent water spots. Remove wax or gum with your fingers, then scrape away the residue with the dull edge of a table knife. Saturate a cloth in cream furniture wax, and rub the spot well, repeating as necessary to restore the surface.
- If you scratch your wood furniture, use a touch-up crayon or marker, usually available in a variety of colours from a hardware or home improvement store.

* Source: ashleyfurniture.com, 2022

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GLASS FURNITURE

Glass brings transparency and motion into a living space. Glass is a clear choice when you want optimal design versatility. It plays nicely with all materials and most styles.

Here are some tips for getting the most out of your glass furniture.

CARING FOR GLASS FURNITURE

- The main thing to remember about glass is that scratches are permanent. Do not slide heavy or textured items across the surface. Use placemats, coasters, or felt pads to protect the surface of your beautiful glass furniture.
- Start cleaning by gently brushing away dust and debris. Avoid scratching the surface.
- Never use cleaners like Comet, Ajax, or scouring creams that work by abrasion.
- After gently dusting, dampen and wring out a cloth of warm water or a liquid glass cleaner. A white vinegar and water solution is inexpensive and environmentally friendly. Wipe with the solution, and dry immediately with a clean cloth.

METAL FURNITURE

Metal furniture is strong and grounding, whether the feel is rustic or an industrial vibe. Metal offers a powerful sense of presence in any room.

CARING FOR METAL FURNITURE

- Metal furniture is very low maintenance. Simply dust regularly with a clean, dry cloth.
- Do not use commercial cleaners, including scouring powders or creams, as they will scratch and erode the metal finish.
- Be aware that iron or steel frames rust in high humidity, or in salt water environments.

** Source: ashleyfurniture.com, 2022*



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PAINTED FURNITURE

Hand-painted furniture or specialty finishes (like sparkling metallics) convey uncommon design confidence. These pieces may be focal points, or all-over components of a glamorous room.

CARING FOR PAINTED FURNITURE

- Place painted furniture well away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and high humidity.
- On a weekly basis, dust or wipe clean, using a clean cloth lightly dampened with water.
- Avoid leaving water spots on the surface. When dry, the marks may become permanent.
- Never use bleach, scouring powders or creams, or other harsh chemicals as they will damage the paint finish.
- To clean stains or spots, make a solution of hot water and liquid dishwashing detergent. Dampen a soft cloth and wring out as much water as possible. Gently rub the stained surface lightly in a circular motion, repeating as necessary to remove the stain. Dry immediately with a clean, soft towel.

* Source: ashleyfurniture.com, 2022