



Teak & Specialties

The ultimate guide to teak wood care



Contents

- 3. Introduction to Teak Wood
- 3. Why Choose Grade A Teak?
- 4. Why We Don't Recommend Oils
- 6. The Right Way to Clean Teak Wood
- 8. Common Teak Care Myths Debunked
- 9. Tips for Long-Lasting Teak Furniture
- 11. Conclusion

Our unparalleled quality has positioned ARB Teak as the preferred choice for customers seeking top-notch craftsmanship that complements their surroundings with elegance and comfort.



Introduction to Teak Wood

Teak wood, scientifically known as *Tectona grandis*, is one of the most sought-after timbers in the world, renowned for its unparalleled durability, beauty, and resilience. Originating from the tropical regions of South and Southeast Asia, particularly India, Indonesia, Myanmar, and Thailand, teak has been celebrated for centuries, not just for its aesthetic appeal, but also for its exceptional resistance to decay and degradation.

One of the standout characteristics of teak is its natural oil content. These oils, present throughout the wood, act as a built-in repellent against pests such as termites and marine borers. This makes teak an ideal choice for a myriad of applications, from opulent indoor furnishings to the demanding conditions of boat decks and outdoor furniture.

Beyond its strength and durability, teak wood boasts a beautiful golden-brown hue when freshly cut, which, over time, gracefully ages to a distinguished silver-gray patina. This natural aging process does not compromise the wood's strength or resilience; rather, it adds to its charm and character.

Furthermore, teak's fine grain and smooth texture make it a pleasure to work with for craftsmen, allowing for intricate designs and detailing. Its versatility is evident in the diverse range of products made from teak, from grand outdoor decks to delicate indoor furnishings and ornate carvings.

In the realm of sustainability, teak forests are now often managed under strict regulations to ensure that this valuable resource remains available for future generations. As consumers become more environmentally conscious, the importance of sourcing teak from sustainable and responsible sources has never been more paramount.

In essence, teak wood stands as a testament to nature's brilliance, offering a combination of beauty, strength, and longevity that few other woods can rival.



Why Choose Grade A Teak?

Teak wood, while universally recognized for its outstanding qualities, is not homogenous in its grading. Among the various grades, Grade A teak holds a special place, representing the pinnacle of quality in teak wood. But what exactly sets Grade A teak apart, and why is it so revered in the world of woodworking and furniture design?

First and foremost, Grade A teak is derived from the heartwood of mature teak trees, typically aged 40 years or older. This maturity ensures that the wood has had ample time to develop its rich reservoir of natural oils, which are the primary contributors to teak's famed durability and water resistance. The high concentration of these oils in Grade A teak pro-

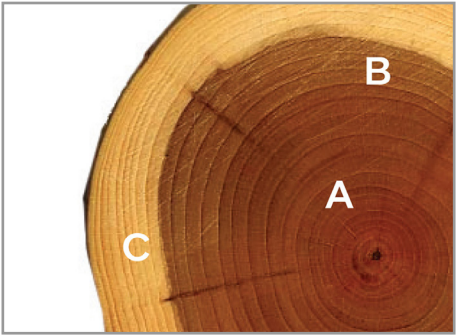
vides superior protection against rot, pests, and the adverse effects of environmental elements.

Visually, Grade A teak boasts a consistent golden-brown hue, devoid of any knots, streaks, or imperfections. This uniformity not only enhances its aesthetic appeal but also ensures structural integrity, making it less prone to warping or cracking compared to lower grades.

In terms of texture, Grade A teak is dense yet smooth to the touch, making it ideal for crafting luxurious furniture pieces that are both comfortable and long-lasting. Its fine grain pattern further accentuates its beauty, allowing for a polished finish that radiates elegance.

Moreover, the ethical harvesting of Grade A teak often adheres to stringent environmental standards, ensuring that the wood is sourced sustainably. This commitment to eco-friendliness adds another layer of value to Grade A teak, aligning with the growing global emphasis on sustainability.

In conclusion, while all teak offers commendable qualities, Grade A teak stands head and shoulders above the rest, offering unmatched beauty, durability, and sustainability. Investing in Grade A teak is not just a choice for superior quality but also a nod to responsible and sustainable consumerism.



Teak wood is available in three different grades: A, B and C. Grade A teak has a beautiful golden hue as well as high oil content which makes it resistant to bacteria.

arbteak.com

Why We Don't Recommend Oils

Many people mistakenly believe that teak wood requires oil or sealant to maintain its appearance and prevent decay. However, at ARB Teak & Specialties, we advise against this common practice, and here's why.

Teak wood is naturally endowed with oils that protect it from the inside out. These oils give teak its characteristic resistance to moisture, pests, and decay. When external oils are applied, they can form a layer on the wood's surface, which, rather than being beneficial, can be detrimental in several ways.

Firstly, this external layer can trap moisture. While teak is naturally water-resistant, the added layer of oil can prevent the wood from "breathing" properly. This can lead to the growth of mold and mildew, compromising the wood's appearance and potentially its structural integrity over time.

Additionally, regular oiling can alter teak's natural coloration. Instead of the desired golden hue, the wood may take on a darker shade. Over time, with repeated oil applications, this can lead to

a patchy appearance, especially if the oil is not uniformly applied.

Another concern is maintenance. Oiled teak requires more frequent upkeep. The external oil layer can wear off, especially in outdoor settings, necessitating repeated applications. This not only increases maintenance efforts but also the costs associated with purchasing oils and possibly professional services.

Furthermore, many commercial teak oils contain solvents and other chemicals that can be harmful to the environment. Runoff from oiled furniture can leach into the soil and water, posing ecological concerns.

In essence, while oiling might seem like a way to enhance teak's beauty and durability, it can, in fact, have the opposite effect. We champion the natural beauty and resilience of teak and believe that it shines best when left in its authentic, unaltered state.

"We use only the finest teak wood for our products. You will never need to oil them."

Alain Boucher, CEO - ARB Teak & Specialties



The Right Way to Clean Teak Wood

Grade A teak, when left 100% natural, doesn't need any protection from weather, the elements, or pests.

Teach wood requires a specific approach to cleaning to ensure it retains its charm and longevity. While it might be tempting to resort to aggressive cleaning methods or strong chemicals, the best approach to teak care is one of gentleness and regularity. Here's a comprehensive guide on the right way to clean teak wood.

Regularity: Regular maintenance is the key to keeping teak furniture looking its best. Depending on the environment and usage, cleaning your teak products every few months or as needed will help maintain its appearance and health.

Cleaning Solution: Simplicity is often the best policy when it comes to teak. A mixture of regular dish soap and water is gentle yet effective. This solution will help remove dirt, grime, and minor stains without stripping the wood of its natural oils.

Tools: A soft bristle brush is the ideal tool for cleaning teak. It offers enough abrasiveness to scrub away dirt without scratching or damaging the wood's surface. Always ensure the brush is clean before starting to avoid introducing new dirt or contaminants.

Method: Begin by wetting the teak surface with clean water. This prepares the wood for cleaning and helps the soap distribute

evenly. Next, apply the soapy solution and gently scrub the surface in the direction of the grain. This ensures that you're working with the wood's natural structure, minimizing the risk of scratches or damage. Once you've covered all areas, rinse the furniture with clean water, ensuring all soap residues are washed away. Allow the teak to air dry; its natural oils will protect it during this process.

Additional Tips:

For stubborn stains, a mixture of baking soda and water can be used as a gentle abrasive paste. Sandpaper can be used as a last resort.

Covering or storing teak furniture during extreme weather conditions can reduce the frequency of cleaning.

Avoid using pressure washers on teak as the intense pressure can damage the wood's surface.

In conclusion, cleaning teak wood is a straightforward process that emphasizes regularity and gentleness. By following these guidelines, you'll ensure that your teak pieces remain as stunning as the day you acquired them.



Common Teak Care Myths Debunked

Teak wood, with its long-standing reputation for durability and elegance, has been surrounded by numerous myths and misconceptions, especially regarding its care and maintenance. As teak furniture owners or potential buyers, it's essential to distinguish fact from fiction to ensure the longevity and beauty of your teak pieces. Let's debunk some of the most common myths surrounding teak maintenance.

Myth 1: Teak needs to be sealed for protection.

Truth: Teak's natural oils already act as a protective barrier against environmental elements. Applying a sealant can trap moisture and lead to mold growth, negating the wood's inherent resistance to such issues.

Myth 2: Teak furniture will last longer if oiled regularly.

Truth: As previously discussed, external oiling can lead to a host of problems, from uneven coloration to increased maintenance needs. Teak's internal oils are sufficient to protect and nourish the wood.

Myth 3: Teak wood is immune to pests and decay, so it requires no maintenance.

Truth: While teak is highly resistant to pests and decay due to its natural oils, no wood is entirely immune. Regular cleaning and proper storage can ensure that teak remains in optimum condition.

Myth 4: The silver-gray patina is a sign of deteriorating teak.

Truth: The silver-gray patina is a natural aging process for teak exposed to the outdoors. It's purely cosmetic and does not indicate any degradation in the wood's quality or strength.

Myth 5: Teak furniture should be stored indoors during winter.

Truth: Teak is resilient enough to withstand winter conditions. However, using protective covers or storing it in a sheltered area can lower the frequency of cleaning required.

Myth 6: All teak wood is the same, regardless of its grade.

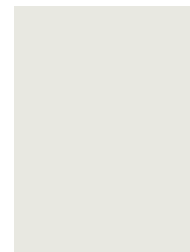
Truth: The quality of teak can vary based on its origin and grade. As we've highlighted, Grade A teak, sourced from mature trees, offers superior quality and benefits compared to lower grades.

Understanding the realities of teak maintenance can save owners time, effort, and potential disappointment. By debunking these myths, we aim to provide clarity and ensure that your teak furniture remains a cherished possession for years to come.

Tips for Long Lasting Teak Furniture



Once teak is treated with any oil, there is no guarantees how the piece will handle itself when exposed to the elements.



Teak furniture, renowned for its durability and timeless beauty, is an investment that can last for generations with the right care. While teak is naturally resilient, certain practices can further enhance its lifespan and maintain its aesthetic appeal. Here are some expert tips to ensure your teak furniture stands the test of time:

I. Proper Placement:

Indoor Teak: Ensure that indoor teak furniture is not placed near heat sources like radiators or vents, as the heat can dry out the wood.

Outdoor Teak: For outdoor pieces, consider placing them in shaded areas or using patio umbrellas to protect them from extreme sunlight, which can hasten the graying process.

II. Regular Cleaning:

While teak doesn't require frequent cleaning, periodic maintenance using a soft bristle brush and mild soapy water can prevent dirt buildup and potential stains.

III. Avoid Chemical Cleaners:

Harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaning tools can strip teak of its natural oils, compromising its protective barrier. Always opt for gentle cleaning agents.

IV. Tighten Fittings:

Regularly inspect your teak furniture for any loose screws or fittings. Tightening them ensures structural integrity and prevents potential damage.

V. Embrace Natural Weathering:

Over time, exposed teak develops a silver-gray patina. This is a natural process and doesn't indicate deterioration. If you prefer the golden hue, you can restore it with gentle cleaning and sanding, but always remember that the patina itself acts as a protective layer.

VII. Elevate Off the Ground:

For outdoor settings, especially in damp conditions, elevating teak furniture slightly off the ground can prevent moisture absorption from below.

VIII. Avoid Dragging:

When moving teak furniture, lift it rather than dragging to prevent undue stress or damage to the joints.

While teak is inherently robust, a little attention to detail and proactive care can go a long way in preserving its beauty and functionality. By following these tips, you can ensure that your teak furniture remains a centerpiece in your home for decades to come.



Conclusion

We use legal wood sanctioned by the Indonesian Government and harvested at Perum Perhutani plantations to manufacture our products. In these plantations, teak trees are grown specifically for furniture fabrication, following strict forest development plans and reforestation programs without harming other vegetation.

Teak wood, a gift from nature, has graced our homes and outdoor spaces for centuries, standing as a testament to what is possible when beauty and durability coalesce. Its rich history, spanning diverse cultures and epochs, underscores its timeless appeal and unmatched resilience. As we've journeyed through the nuances of teak care and maintenance, a few salient points emerge that are worth reiterating.

Firstly, the inherent qualities of teak, especially Grade A teak, make it a unique and valuable asset. Its natural oils, fine grain, and robust structure mean that with minimal care, teak can outlast most other types of furniture, often becoming cherished heirlooms passed down through generations.

However, as with all things precious, there's a responsibility that comes with owning teak furniture. The myths and misconceptions surrounding its care can lead

well-intentioned owners astray. By adhering to best practices, debunking myths, and understanding the wood's natural characteristics, we can ensure that our teak pieces remain as stunning in the future as the day they were crafted.

Moreover, in an age where sustainability and environmental consciousness are paramount, choosing responsibly-sourced teak aligns with a broader vision of ecological harmony. It's not just about owning a piece of furniture; it's about making a statement of commitment to our planet.

In closing, teak wood mirrors the enduring beauty of nature in its elegance and strength. By understanding its needs and providing it with gentle care, we can enjoy the myriad benefits it offers, making our spaces a confluence of nature's charm and human craftsmanship.



Address

8114 Trans-Canada Hwy
Ville Saint-Laurent, QC
H4S 1M5

 Toll free: 855-772-8325

Social Media



facebook.com/arbteak



@arbteak

Online

Canada: <https://ca.arbteak.com/>

USA: <https://arbteak.com/pages/arbusa>

Email: info@arbteak.com

