

## Care Instructions



It is all about wood

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## **Congratulations on your new Skovby item**

Skovby was founded in 1933. The company is today run by the third generation and has since the beginning manufactured furniture in genuine hardwood only. Sound traditions and experience have been inherited and our long history has given us know-how about furniture and its maintenance, which we would like to share with you.

We therefore ask you kindly to read the following before you assemble your item and put it into use.

Should there, contrary to expectations, be flaws or defects on your item, we ask you kindly to contact your retailer immediately.

Remember to keep the packaging if you need to return your item. If you have assembled your item and the original packaging is damaged, you may lose the right to return it. Defects or damages occurring because of wrongful use or insufficient maintenance of the item (i.e. not in accordance with the instructions) do not justify a claim.

We hope that you will enjoy your new Skovby item for many years to come. Reading this folder and following our instructions will help you preserve the beauty of your furniture by giving it the proper care and treatment.

## From plantation to plant

...From tree to furniture

The wood that we apply for manufacturing furniture is primarily harvested in well run plantations in Europe and North America with focus on sustainability. In these areas they only harvest the quantity of wood equal to that which is planted every year and this ensures the proper respect for nature and future generations.

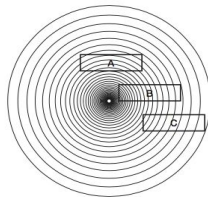
## The expression of nature

The colour and structure of the wood vary because of the difference in growth conditions. The soil, the temperature and the quantity of rain have a direct influence on the appearance of the tree. A tree used for furniture has often grown for more than 100 years, i.e. for more than four generations. During this time it has been exposed to many things to affect its appearance and enhance its unique diversity.

## A log is turned into planks...

After cutting down the tree, the log is cut into planks that are divided into boards. The appearance of the boards depends on where in the log they are cut from.

A flat cut board, A, gets a vivid appearance. The structure is in cones or bows. A vertical cut board, B, has a calmer appearance, and a quarter cut board, C, gets a very homogenous, calm appearance. The entire log is used of course, which means that all three types of cuttings are represented in furniture.



## **An individual expression**

Wood has knots. This is not a flaw but simply the natural marking of where the branch was attached to the trunk. Each piece of furniture is therefore unique as the graining, structure and colour are created – designed – by nature.

This is precisely what makes wood so fascinating and well suited for furniture. Minor variations in colour and structure can therefore not be considered a flaw but indicate that each single part comes from different cuttings in the log or from different trees.

## **Wood - A living material**

Wood is a living material - continuing after the tree has been felled - and is affected by the humidity in air and temperature. Wood used for furniture production has been dried to be in balance with the average indoor climate - i.e. a room temperature of approx. 20 deg. C and an air humidity of approx. 50%. In Denmark the air humidity varies from the driest winter period to the most humid in summer between approx. 40 and 65%, which causes the humidity of the wood to change from 8 to 13% - i.e. a difference of 5%. Wood has the ability to absorb and emit moisture depending on its surroundings. As a result wood will expand in moist periods and contract in dry ones. In other places of the world there may be even larger fluctuations in temperature and air humidity.

This applies for both veneered and solid furniture, but especially solid furniture is sensitive to such fluctuations.

Some wood sorts change colour after unpacking. Sunlight triggers this process. The more sunlight, the more change in colour. If you want to delay the process, do not expose your furniture to direct sunlight. In order to avoid markings from dishes, vases etc. make sure to move them regularly.

When supplementing your Skovby furniture, please be aware that there will be a colour difference between new and previously purchased items.

## **Where to use your furniture?**

If you want the extension leaves to change in colour concurrently with the tabletop, you must keep your table extended with all the leaves. If the table is exposed to an uneven influence of light, it is a good idea once in a while to turn it 180 degrees, so that both ends get equal amount of light.

Sun and heat dry out wood and may cause cracking.

Never use indoor furniture outside. Major deviations from normal indoor climate may damage the furniture. We therefore recommend that you get a hygrometer to control the air humidity.

## **Solid furniture**

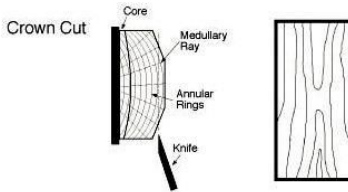
Solid tabletops are made of boards that are glued together. Before gluing we sort and match the boards for an entire tabletop to make sure that its overall appearance is as well-balanced as possible. Here we consider their difference in structure, colour, content of knots etc.

After gluing the tops they are placed in a controlled environment for a few days. Then they are processed in size, sanded and finally finished with oil, soap or lacquer.

Wood absorbs and emits moisture mostly through the pores of the cross-cut boards. If the table has centre joints, changes in air humidity may cause a slight change in the size of the top resulting in minor openings at the edge or in the middle. If the table is placed in a room with normal air humidity and temperature, the joint will be tight most of the year though.

When solid wood changes this way, you will be able to feel the joints between the different components. Solid tabletops easily bend a little and get visible, small cracks between the grains. These are insignificant as to the durability of the table. If you wish to close these small cracks use suitable wood filler.

Small changes are inevitable. These are not defects but simply prove that the item is made of a living material. However, as wood adapts to its surroundings solid furniture must not be kept in rooms with major fluctuations in air humidity and temperature. You should therefore avoid placing your furniture in humid, unheated rooms.



## Veneered furniture

The log can also be cut into veneer. The veneer that we use has been sliced, which means that the log is cut into thin sheets. This method of cutting creates many similar leaves and makes it possible to make furniture with a homogenous and symmetrical pattern.

We cut the veneer to length and width while respecting the wood and carefully considering its structure and appearance. Then the pieces are edge-glued, often in a symmetrical pattern. This can be done by turning every second veneer leaf.

The completed veneer sheet is glued onto chipboard or MDF board made of recycled wood, such as wood chips from the manufacture of furniture. Then we cut or mill the veneered boards to size and attach edgings in veneer or solid wood. Finally we sand and finish the components.

When the veneer is sliced, many similar leaves of veneer are created. This makes it possible to manufacture furniture in which, for instance, two halves of a tabletop in an extension table or the doors on the front of a sideboard mirror each other.

Veneered furniture is energy-friendly, meaning that minimal energy is used for making the largest possible quantity of products per cubic metre of wood.

Veneered furniture often has a calm appearance because of the more uniform patterns.

Veneered furniture mirrors the diversity of nature though. You may find minor knots, pigmentation and colour varieties between each leaf of veneer and edging. When light is refracted on the surface of the wood it may create optical colour differences. This may give the impression of the elements having various colours depending on which angle you are looking from. For the same reason it may look as if horizontal and vertical surfaces have different colours, even though they do not. This all contributes to creating unique furniture on nature's own terms. However, before processing an item we very much focus our attention on matching components with a low tolerance in colour and structure.

We use the wood with greatest possible respect. Anything else would be wrong, – to nature, to the trees and to the forestry workers who have nurtured the trees for years.

### **Laminate surfaces**

Laminate tabletops are constructed in the same way as veneered tabletops. The furniture board is simply covered with high-pressure laminate instead of veneer. Our high-pressure laminate has an unmatched resistance during ordinary use and is easy to maintain.

Laminate surfaces may have pigmentation spots of up to 0.5 mm, just as minor deviations in gloss may occur between each surface.



## **Care and maintenance**

...take good care of your furniture

All cleaning and treatment should be done along the graining of the wood.

### **Oil treated surfaces**

An oil treated piece of furniture has had a natural treatment that gives a rustic appearance. Oil treatment enhances the natural differences of the wood and just as various parts of an item will absorb the oil differently, they may also dry out in a different pace, giving the item an uneven appearance. This is natural and is evened out at further oil treatment. It may therefore be necessary to oil before use.

### **Application**

Always clean the surface before treating it with oil. If the surface is scratched, grind it carefully along the graining using a soft grinding sponge (grit 220). Clean the surface with a cloth well wrung out in lukewarm water added a few drops of uncolored washing-up liquid (pH neutral). If necessary add a few more drops of washing-up liquid. Afterwards wipe the surface with a clean, dry cloth. Leave the wood to dry for about two hours after cleaning, before treating it with furniture oil.

Apply the oil directly onto the surface in an even, thin layer and rub it in gently with an uncolored cloth/sponge. After 2-3 minutes surplus oil is wiped off with a clean, dry cloth. It is very important that this is done while the surface is still wet. It will take the oil up to two days to harden completely and provide maximum protection. Repeat this treatment 2-3 times a year or when needed.

Please note that before the oil has hardened it can rub off on clothing. This cannot be washed off.

Please also note that oil-soaked rags and sponges are liable to spontaneous combustion and therefore must be stored safely in airtight metal containers or burnt under supervision immediately after use.

Watch the instructional video on [www.skovby.com](http://www.skovby.com).

For daily cleaning wipe the furniture with a clean, dry cloth or a cloth well wrung out in lukewarm water (if necessary added a few drops of washing-up liquid per litre of water), followed by wiping with a clean, dry cloth.

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### **Lacquered surfaces**

For daily cleaning wipe the furniture with a clean cloth well wrung out in lukewarm water - if necessary added a few drops of washing-up liquid per litre of water - followed by wiping with a clean, dry cloth. Do not use abrasive cleaners such as scouring powders or creams. Repairs should only be carried out by a professional workshop. Please contact your Skovby retailer.

### **Laminate surfaces**

For daily cleaning of a laminate tabletop we recommend wiping it with a cloth firmly wrung out in lukewarm water. Afterwards wipe the surface with a clean, dry cloth. If the surface needs a more thorough cleaning you can use washing-up liquid (a few drops per liter of water). Wipe it afterwards with a clean, moist cloth and finally a clean, dry cloth. Do not use scouring powder or nylon sponges as these will dull or scratch the laminate.

### **Basic cleaning**

First of all clean the surface with a fat-dissolving cleaning agent that does not contain abrasives. Remove the cleaning agent with a cloth firmly wrung out in clean water to avoid discolourations. Finally wipe the table with a clean, dry cloth. Avoid water and strong cleaning agents on the wooden edges. These are wiped with a clean cloth firmly wrung out in clean water and afterwards wiped with a clean, dry cloth.

## Stains and damages

Fat, oil, felt pen marks etc can be removed with acetone, thinner or benzene. Then clean with a cloth firmly wrung in clean water and finally wipe the surface with a clean, dry cloth. Never use acidic detergents, wax or any kind of furniture polish, as these may cause permanent discolouration. Do not use solvents on the wooden edges of the HPL surface.

## Good advice

...and simple rules

Do not place hot items directly on your furniture.

Use coasters to protect the surface against hot, damp and coloured objects (colour may come off). Do not use cork coasters as damp can pass right through and into the surface of the item.

Always protect the surface when using sharp utensils.

Moisture is the worst enemy of all wooden furniture and therefore any spilt liquid must be wiped off immediately. The tabletop should not be covered with an airtight material such as plastic or an oilcloth for more than 12 hours.

Never place furniture too close to radiators or heaters.

In order to keep the colour of the wood, direct sunlight should be avoided as much as possible.

If in doubt, ask your Skovby retailer.



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[www.skovby.com](http://www.skovby.com)

For further information about maintenance of furniture please visit [www.furn-tech.dk](http://www.furn-tech.dk) or [www.skovby.com](http://www.skovby.com)