



## COASTAL LIVING OUTDOOR

# Care and Maintenance

## OUTDOOR CUSHION DRYING

Reticulated Foam drying times depend on the fabric used and how fast the water can drain out.

It is recommended that cushions be placed on their zipper side facing down to allow water to pass through and drain out.

## GRADE-A TEAK

### How does teak wood weather?

Teak wood furniture, when exposed to the outdoors, will form a silver-gray patina. This process will take approximately nine months, depending on the amount of sunlight and rain exposure.

During the weathering process you may notice “checking” or small cracks that appear in the wood. This is perfectly natural, as wood expands and contracts slightly when left outdoors. Checking is cosmetic only and in no way affects the structural integrity of the furniture.

A lifting of the grain may occur on the top edges of the arms and legs. The grain will return to its original smooth finish after the initial weathering process. To aid this process, simply clean the furniture with a soft bristle brush or sponge.

Water spots or other discoloration may also occur during the weathering process. These will even out with time and with periodic cleaning, the furniture will achieve a uniform silver-gray.

### Do I need to clean my teak furniture before using it the first time?

Yes. Before placing cushions on your teak furniture, remove any dust from manufacturing by wiping the furniture with a damp cloth. Teak has oil that occurs naturally in the wood. Expect some of this oil to bleed out following the first few rainfalls. In order to protect your cushions, bring them inside before the furniture gets wet. Stains from teak oil are not covered under warranty.

### How should I clean my teak furniture?

The only maintenance necessary for your furniture is periodic cleaning. First, hose down the furniture with fresh water. Avoid spraying the teak with a high pressure hose, as high pressure can erode the surface of the timber. Next, 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. When finished, rinse the entire piece with more fresh water to remove any remaining cleaning solution.

### Do I need to bring my cushions indoors when it rains?

Teak has oil that occurs naturally in the wood. Expect some of this oil to bleed out following the first few rainfalls. In order to protect your cushions, bring them inside before the furniture gets wet. Stains from teak oil are not covered under warranty. Once the furniture has begun to form a silver-gray patina, it is no longer necessary to bring the cushions indoors.

### How can I prevent my teak from turning silver-gray if I want to maintain the golden brown color?

If you prefer to keep your teak wood a golden brown color, we recommend using teak protector. This is a purely cosmetic application. The product will maintain the golden brown color for approximately one season and can be reapplied as needed. You should wait two weeks before applying the protector to newly assembled furniture. We strongly recommend you try it on a small area of your furniture first—such as the back of a leg or the underside of a chair— to ensure you like the results before applying it to the entire piece.

Is it okay to oil my teak furniture?

Search Universal Furniture



We do not recommend oiling teak furniture or the use of oil based products. If done improperly, oiling can cause mildew or irregular coloring and is not covered under warranty.

How should teak furniture be stored for the winter?

Teak furniture may be left outside all year round without an outdoor furniture cover. Snow and freezing temperatures will not harm the furniture. If you prefer to store your furniture, we recommend doing so in a dry, unheated garage or garden shed.

How should I care for teak if it’s used indoors?

If you choose to use your furniture indoors, we suggest that you periodically apply a thin coat of paste wax, (i.e., Briwax or Johnson’s Wax). Doing so provides the teak with additional protection from natural body oils, dust, and dirt that may come in contact with the furniture.

What are the black dots on my teak furniture?

Although teak wood itself will not mildew, mildew sometimes grows on dirt and other foreign substances that are not removed from the wood. This occurs more commonly in warm, humid climates.

If this happens, follow the standard cleaning instructions immediately. Do not let the mildew remain on the wood for too long. Doing so could cause stains on the wood that are difficult to remove.

How can I prevent mildew on my teak furniture?

We recommend periodically cleaning the surface of your teak to remove environmental deposits that could promote mildew growth.

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POWDER COATED ALUMINUM

How should I clean my aluminum furniture?

For basic cleaning, hose down the aluminum frame with water and allow it to air dry. For moderate cleaning, wash the aluminum with a soft cloth or sponge and a solution of 1 teaspoon liquid dish soap in 1 quart of warm water. Rinse thoroughly with a low pressure hose to remove any soap. Allow the furniture to air dry. Do not clean the furniture with abrasive pads, brushes or cleansers. Use care to avoid scratching the powdercoat finish.

Will aluminum rust or corrode?

No. Aluminum is rustproof and suitable for use poolside and near salt water.

How should aluminum furniture be stored for the winter?

We recommend that aluminum furniture be stored indoors for the winter in climates exposed to snow and freezing temperatures or ventilated/breathable furniture covers may be used. If stored indoors, the furniture must be stored in an upright position to allow for proper water drainage. Storing furniture upside-down may cause water to accumulate and freeze inside the frame, causing structural damage. Always thoroughly clean your furniture before placing in storage. The best place to store your furniture is a dry garage, garden shed, or basement.

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ALL-WEATHER WICKER

How does woven furniture weather?

Our all-weather wicker fiber is environmentally friendly and highly resistant to fading, cracking or tearing even after years of use. Fibers have variegated tones, textures and/or matte finishes for an incredibly natural, authentic appearance.

Does woven fiber color vary?

We use strict quality control standards to help ensure consistent color of our all-weather wicker fiber. Colors and color-blends may vary slightly from unit-to-unit due to subtle differences in dye lots, the use of variegated fibers, and the hand-woven nature of the furniture.

How should the woven furniture be cleaned?

To clean your woven furniture, rinse the frame with fresh water using a 25° Green Nozzle Tip for gentle lifting and cleaning. Be careful to avoid any teak details on the furniture as the high pressure can erode the surface of the timber. Optionally, you may wash the woven material with mild detergent and warm water using a soft brush. After washing, rinse with fresh water until there are no soap bubbles remaining. Allow the furniture to air-dry. If using a specialty outdoor furniture cleaner, avoid using a foaming product, as foam cleaners can leave residue in the gaps of the weaving and later attract dirt.

How should woven furniture be stored for the winter?

We recommend that woven furniture be stored for the winter in climates exposed to snow and freezing temperatures. Furniture must be stored in an upright position to allow for proper water drainage. Storing furniture upside-down may cause water to accumulate and freeze inside the frame, causing structural damage. Always thoroughly clean your furniture before placing in storage. The best place to store your furniture is a dry garage, garden shed, or basement. You may also store your woven furniture outdoors using furniture covers.

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CAST CONCRETE

How should I clean my concrete furniture?

Concrete can be cared for with a garden hose, detergent and light scrubbing to remove any surface dirt or grime. It can also be lightly waxed with high quality furniture polish to make cleaning easier in crevices shapes.

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Practical Luxury. Upscale Design.

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