

Parke Teak

BURMESE TEAK FACTS

Burmese Teak - Parke Teak is crafted with the world's finest, genuine reforested Burmese teak (*Tectona Grandis*). Burmese teak is denser, heavier, tighter grained and has 500% more natural oils than Indonesian teak. Its appearance is a richer golden color with more beautiful grain patterns. The higher oil content aids in prolonging the natural weathering process and its high density naturally repels parasites.

Different Grades of Teak - Not all teak wood is the same. When seeking the sophistication of teak, you must know that there is a significant quality difference between Burmese teak and Indonesian grown teak. Most manufacturers use Indonesian Grade A plantation grown because it is the cheapest teak available. This teak is harvested premature at about 20 years old. This teak is now being a cash crop. It has undergone genetic modification and the hybrid version is a faster growing strain of teak. This hybrid Indonesian teak does not possess the same qualities of the original "slow growth" Burmese teak. This hybrid teak contains about one-fifth the natural oils and resins of Burmese teak and weighs about 20% less. The result is a shorter life expectancy, inferior grain character, and a rougher texture.

Premium Cuts-We use thick generous portions of only the heartwood (center of log, tightest in grain and richest in oils) portion of the teak log for construction. Our teak wood is trimmed of any sap wood (outer growth of tree, consisting of deadwood), dead knots, checking and imperfections.

Kiln Dried - for up to 40 days. The wood is finally sun-dried to achieve a beauty golden hue. At time of shipment, a moisture content range of between 10% - 14% is achieved. This is the ideal moisture content for teak in our dry North American climate. This drying process is essential in reducing warping, cracking, checking and aids in prolonging the life of teak outdoor furniture.

History- It is said that the first teak outdoor furniture was made from decking of old sailing ships that were headed to the scrap yard. In spite of all the abuse this teak wood endured, the decking on these ships was in such great condition; the wood was recycled and remade into outdoor furniture, giving birth to the teak outdoor furniture industry. Shipbuilders have known for centuries about the beauty, remarkable texture, and superior weather resistance of teak wood.

Durability -The most important characteristic of teak is its durability in all weather conditions. Teak is an extremely dense grained hardwood which resists rot, warping, shrinking and swelling. Its high natural oil content continually preserves the wood so it can be left outdoors for decades without maintenance. Teak furniture is very smooth to the touch and does not splinter. Teak has a life expectancy of 80 years if left untreated.

Ecologically Correct – Environmentally correct. In accordance with a well established system, we use only wood from properly managed, reforested, sustainable forests and in accordance with all agencies.