



## ***CARE & MAINTENCE OF WOOD FURNITURE***

Teak and balau are the premium choices of wood for outdoor furniture. Teak and balau are beautiful and durable hardwoods that require little or no care to preserve its natural good looks and strength for decades.

***THE WEATHERING PROCESS-*** Remove any dust from manufacturing by lightly wiping your furniture with a damp cloth. New teak and balau furniture appears to have a polished sheen. This sheen is caused from the oil naturally occurring in balau wood. This surface oil will be washed away after a short time outdoors. The oils and resins that remain inside give teak and balau their lasting durability. In the first few week of sun exposure, your teak and balau will turn a beautiful golden color. Eventually, the weathering process will naturally age your furniture to a handsome sliver-gray, leaving your furniture with a look of ageless beauty. This gradual aging process usually takes up to twelve months, depending on the amount of sunlight and rain exposure to the wood. After the wood has been exposed to moisture, the surface grain may rise slightly. The grain will return to its original smooth finish after the initial weathering process. You may even notice a few small cracks at the end grain, called "checking". This is a natural weathering effect. The slight separation of the grain has no affect on the strength and longevity of the furniture. This "checking" is caused when the wood expands and contracts slightly when left outdoors. Water spots or discoloration may also occur early in the weathering process. This spotting will eventually disappear as the teak wood ages to its uniform sliver-gray color. To quicken this aging process, simply clean the furniture as instructed in "annual cleaning".

***ANNUAL CLEANING-*** The only maintenance necessary for your furniture is a periodic cleaning. This cleaning should be done with a soft bristled brush and soapy water (mild detergent) to remove accumulated dirt. Most dirt and stains can be removed with soapy water and a brush. To eliminate any surface mold (black spots/color) add a half cup of household beach to each one-gallon soapy water solution. Rinse well with clean water after washing. Avoid using pressure washers because they can scour and roughen the wood surface and drive out the natural wood oils. Also, avoid the use of steel wool as it can leave a residue that can produce rust spots. A bronze wool pad is ok.

***STAINING-***Teak and balau are porous materials and will absorb unwanted liquids and food oils that will cause staining. To reduce staining, immediately wipe off up any spills as soon as possible. Scrub stain with a wet sponge and let dry. For stubborn stains and burns, we recommend a light sanding in addition to cleaning. If previously sealed, follow sanding by resealing stained surface area.

***WOOD SEALER-*** Should you prefer to keep the furniture the original golden color use a wood sealer. Oil based sealers will maintain the color for approximately one year and can be reapplied as needed. Wood sealers will also aid in reducing staining. Initial application of sealer should be applied after one or two weeks of outdoor exposure or after your furniture has been cleaned and completely dried. Avoid applying sealer in direct sunlight or extreme heat. Let dry for a day and buff with a clean towel.

***DEEP CLEANING-*** To restore your furniture to its original color, use a wood cleaner/brighteners. Most cleaners/brighteners will restore the furniture to the original golden color regardless of age or surface condition. These cleaners require no heavy scrubbing, easy to use and will produce dramatic results.

***WE DO NOT RECOMMEND USING TEAK OIL-*** Using teak oil on outdoor wood furniture can leave a greasy or sticky residue which provides an ideal living condition for mold and mildew. This creates black spots on your wood furniture. We also advise against the use of paint, varnish or other similar finishes. These finishes tend to crack and flake from the surface and are not suited for outdoor applications.