



Oiled oak/pine

Ensuring a long product life

Weather and wind mean that all wood kept outdoors is exposed to large variations in moisture. Rain and air contain dirt particles that both wear and coat outdoor furniture. During the summer, protect your furniture from precipitation when not in use. If you cannot protect your furniture from the rain, tilt it so that the rainwater will run off. This will help extend the life of your furniture. Both oak and pine will eventually grey and darken naturally, how quickly depends on where the furniture is placed. Small cracks may develop naturally over time. Here, we offer advice on how to best maintain your furniture.

Wooden components

Clean!

Clean your furniture regularly, and deal with any stains immediately for the best results. Maintenance needs vary depending on how exposed the furniture is to sunlight, rain, windfall and mechanical wear. Clean your furniture with a sponge or a cloth and soapy water. Use a scrubbing sponge if necessary (such as a green Scotch-Brite™). Rinse with water. Never use a pressure washer to clean your furniture as you risk damaging the wood fibres. Dirt can attract mould. If your furniture has been exposed to mildew/black mould, it may need to be treated with mould remover or the like to remove it and lighten any discoloration. Rinse thoroughly. Black dots may also appear on the upper surfaces. These originate from air pollutants carried by precipitation. Depending on local conditions, this occurs at different rates. To avoid them, you must clean your furniture regularly. If the surface fibres swell/rise, sand them lightly with fine sandpaper (grit rating 180–200).

Oil!

Your furniture has been treated with a water-based oil at the factory. The wooden components need to be oiled regularly to maintain their shape and prevent cracks. A good rule of thumb is to oil your furniture 2–3 times a year. It should be oiled as soon as the surface feels dry. Clean your furniture before oiling it. Leave the furniture to dry thoroughly (this may take several days, depending on the humidity and the temperature). Follow the instructions on the oil bottle. Lightly sand the surfaces to be oiled and scrape off any old oil remnants. Apply the oil, paying particular attention to ends and joins.

Repeat the treatment if the oak/pine feels dry and washed out. Be sure to wipe up any excess oil. Excess oil attracts dirt, which in turn can start to mould. The oiling process is then repeated as necessary, when the wood feels dry. Use a suitable wood oil. NB: It is important to follow the instructions on the packaging.

Winter storage

In preparation for winter storage, you can oil your furniture some time in advance, giving the oil time to soak into the wood properly. The best winter storage option is an unheated storeroom that is cool, dry and well ventilated. Another alternative is to use a furniture cover (or tarpaulin), a canopy or something similar. If you use a furniture cover, be sure not to let it rest directly against any wooden surfaces as the air should be able to circulate between the furniture cover and the wooden surfaces. It is important that the furniture is both clean and dry when stored for the winter. If the chairs are stacked, remember to place something between them to protect the wood.

Bases

Hot-galvanized bases offer long-term corrosion protection and need no maintenance other than regular cleaning. Hot-galvanizing produces a slightly mottled grey finish that can vary in nuance depending on the properties of the material. Such variations will even out over time. Bases eventually transition from a shiny to a matt finish. Products made of steel tubing will always be somewhat shinier than products made of solid steel due to the slightly different properties of the materials. Any minor damage to hot-galvanized products will generally heal itself.

Powder-coated bases undergo multi-stage surface treatments, so maintenance is only needed if the paint is worn or damaged. Check for any damage and repair as necessary. Maintenance entails sanding and painting with a metal paint for outdoor use. Naturally, regular cleaning is also a good idea. Use a damp cloth to remove any dirt. Do not use solvents or cleaning agents containing abrasives.

Electroplated bases (Brewery series up to 2019) have a thinner layer of zinc than hot-galvanized bases. Any damage is repaired with a cold galvanizing paint. Electroplated products should be avoided in aggressive coastal environments, as salt water can shorten the product's lifetime.