

— EXPERT TIPS —



# Caring For Your Outdoor Furniture

*Presented by the Outdoor Furniture Department  
of Gasper Garden Center*

— GASPER CAN HELP —

# Caring for Your Outdoor Furniture

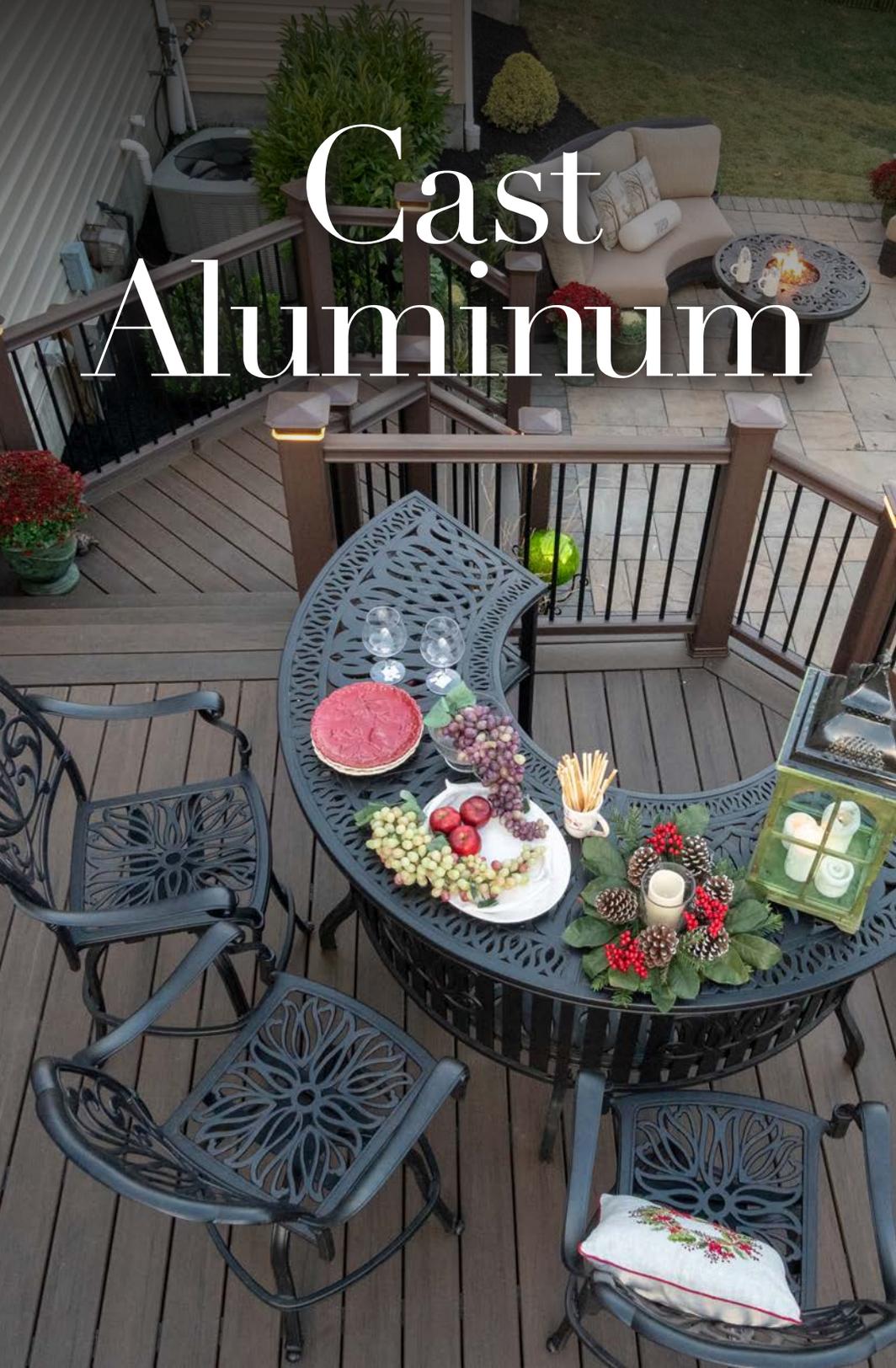
After a few seasons outside, your furnishings may start to show their age with rust marks, mildew, or stains. The following general care tips will ensure that your chairs, tables, and cushions look beautiful for years to come.

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# Cast Aluminum



# What Is Cast Aluminum Furniture?

Cast aluminum furniture is made by pouring molten metal into sand castings or precision machined molds to form component parts for chairs, tables or accessories. The frames are then welded and finished with a durable powder coating process.



## Caring For Your Outdoor Furniture: Cast Aluminum

This finishing process for aluminum, iron and steel grinds a plastic coating in to fine talc and is blown on to a chemically cleaned and etched surface of the metal. When baked, the talc melts and fuses in to the metal producing a thick durable weather resistant coating which is substantially thicker than a normal spray paint process. The manufacturers represented at Gasper are widely recognized for their quality, elegance and sophisticated style.



# Cleaning Cast Aluminum

A spray nozzle and a garden hose is your best defense. Periodic cleaning of frames is recommended. Simply wash with mild soap and rinse thoroughly. Do not use any kind of wax, abrasive materials or strong detergents on textured finishes.



## Repairing Scratches in Cast Aluminum Paint Finish

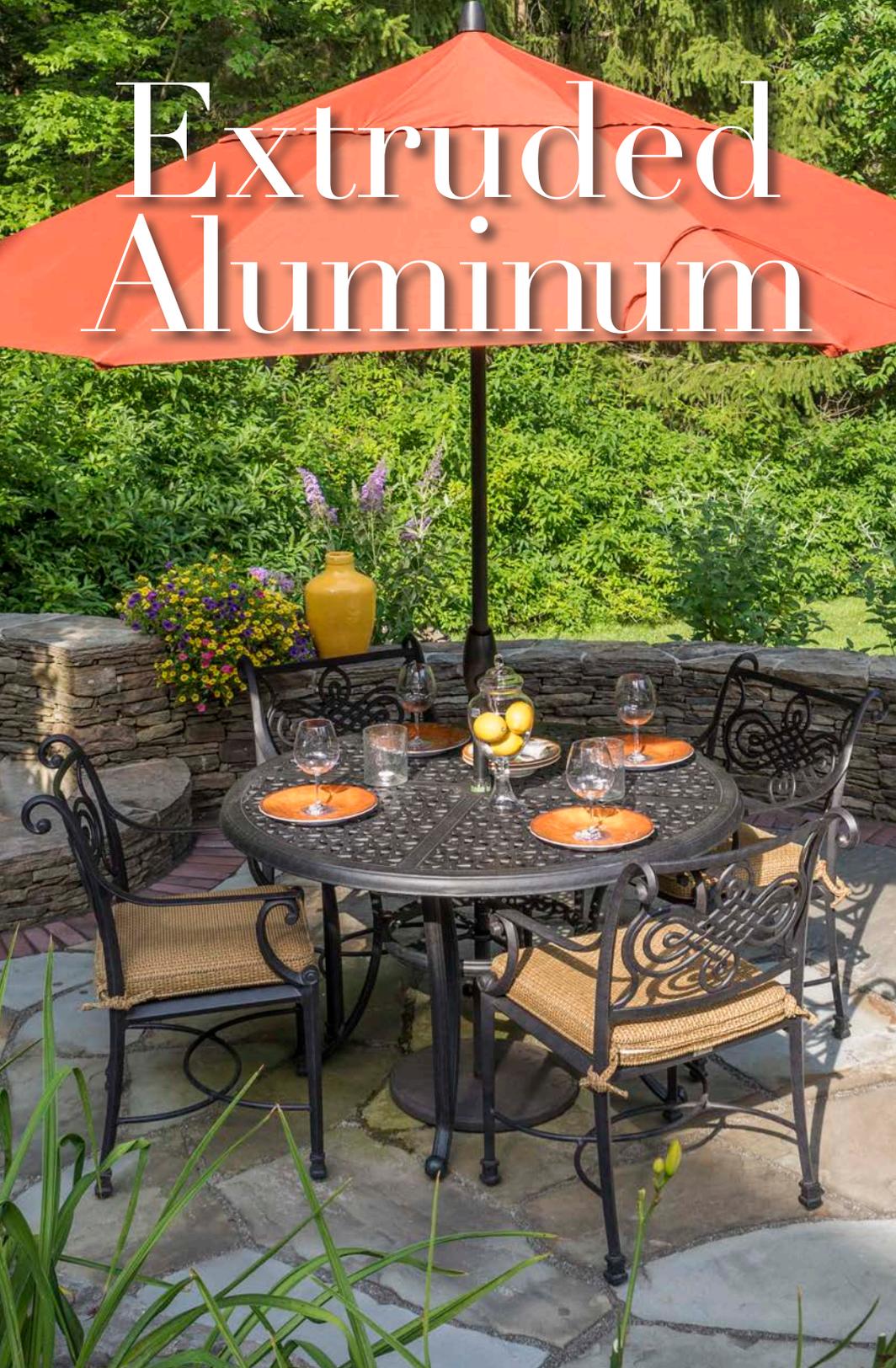
Touch-up paint to match your frame color is available at Gasper or from the manufacturer. Place the frame in an open area with plenty of ventilation—preferably outdoors. Using a very fine grit sand paper (120 grit or more) lightly sand the damaged area until smooth with the rest of the surface. Using a clean rag lightly dipped in rubbing alcohol or mineral spirits, wipe the sanded area clean of dirt and oil. This primes the affected area and provides the maximum bonding surface for the paint to adhere. Shake spray can for at least one minute. Holding the spray can 8–10 inches away from surface to be touched-up, spray the damaged area lightly in an even left to right motion. This action helps to prevent paint runs.

## Caring For Your Outdoor Furniture: Cast Aluminum

For best results, make two to three light coats allowing paint to dry in between coats. Read the information affixed to the spray can for additional information. Touch-up applications should be limited to as small an area as necessary to repair the damage. Be sure to use the left to right motion when touching-up to feather the area into the established finished area. Wait until paint is very dry before determining if an additional coat is needed.

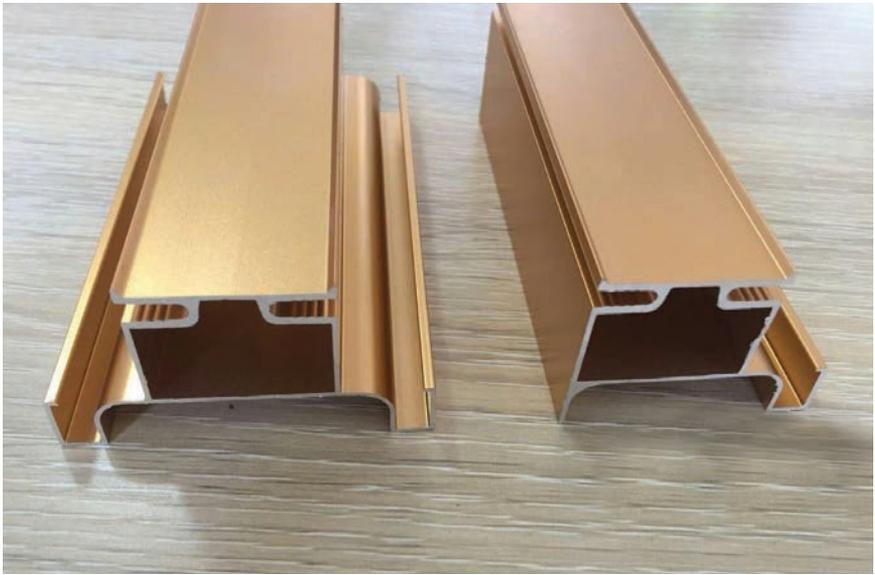


# Extruded Aluminum



# What Is Extruded Aluminum Furniture?

Extruded aluminum furniture is formed by forcing aluminum stock through dies. The result is a seamless extrusion of aluminum that comes in many shapes and forms. It can be bent into beautiful shapes and styles. The frames are then welded and finished with a durable powder coating. This finishing



## Caring For Your Outdoor Furniture: Extruded Aluminum

process for aluminum, iron and steel grinds a plastic coating into fine talc and is blown onto a chemically cleaned and etched surface of the metal. When baked, the talc melts and fuses in to the metal producing a thick durable weather-resistant coating which is substantially thicker than a normal spray paint process. This state of the art process is warranted by manufacturers against peeling and flaking due to defective painting.



## Cleaning Extruded Aluminum

A spray nozzle and a garden hose is your best defense. Periodic cleaning of frames is recommended. Simply wash with mild soap and rinse thoroughly. Do not use any kind of wax, abrasive materials or strong detergents on textured finishes.



## Repairing Scratches in Extruded Aluminum Finish

Touch-up paint to match your frame color is available at Gasper or from the manufacturer. Place the frame in an open area with plenty of ventilation—preferably outdoors. Using a very fine grit sand paper (120 grit or more) lightly sand the damaged area until smooth with the rest of the surface.

Using a clean rag lightly dipped in rubbing alcohol or mineral spirits, wipe the sanded area clean of dirt and oil. This primes the affected area and provides the maximum bonding surface for the paint to adhere.

Shake spray can for at least one minute. Holding the spray can 8–10 inches away from surface to be touched-up, spray the damaged area lightly in an even left to right motion. This action helps to prevent paint runs.

For best results, make two to three light coats allowing paint to dry in between coats. Read the information affixed to the spray can for additional information. Touch-up applications should be limited to as small an area as necessary to repair the damage.

Be sure to use the left to right motion when touching up to feather the area into the established finished area. Wait until paint is very dry before determining if an additional coat is needed.

**SMALL NICKS:** *Spray touch-up paint onto a flat plate or dish. Use a small artist's brush to transfer the paint from the plate to the furniture. Texture can be enhanced with a clean dry brush after the paint becomes sticky.*

# Wrought Iron



## Traditional and Durable

Wrought iron furniture is made from heavy gauge, low carbon rolled steel. State-of-the-art paint systems are used by the manufacturers to provide strong, durable finishes.

Wrought iron offers traditional styling with a more formal look. Its light, airy designs add interest to any setting, furnishing an area with a more conventional look without making a bold design statement. Iron furniture has a timeless elegance with enduring beauty.

**WARNING:** *We do not recommend purchasing wrought iron furniture for use near chlorinated swimming areas or in shore locations. Airborne chlorine and salt accelerate the onset of rust and oxidation on these frames.*

# Cleaning Wrought Iron

A spray nozzle and a garden hose is your best defense. Periodic cleaning of frames is recommended. Simply wash with mild soap and rinse thoroughly. Do not use any kind of wax, abrasive materials or strong detergents on textured finishes.



## Repairing Scratches

Touch-up paint to match your frame color is available at Gasper's or from your manufacturer. Place the frame in an open area with plenty of ventilation—preferably outdoors. Using a very fine grit sand paper (120 grit or more) lightly sand the damaged area until smooth with the rest of the surface.



## Caring For Your Outdoor Furniture: Wrought Iron

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## Caring For Your Outdoor Furniture: Wrought Iron

This action helps to prevent paint runs. For best results, make two to three light coats allowing, paint to dry in between coats. Read the information affixed to the spray can for additional information. Touch-up applications should be limited to as small an area as necessary to repair the damage. Be sure to use the left to right motion when touching-up to feather the area into the established finish area. Wait until paint is very dry before determining if an additional coat is needed.





# Woven Material

## Does Woven Fiber Color Vary?

Most manufacturers 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 difference in dye lots, the use of variegate fibers and the hand-woven nature of the furniture.



# All-Weather Wicker Fiber

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.





# Cleaning Woven Materials

To clean your woven furniture, rinse the frame with fresh water using a high hose pressure. 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.

**HINT:** *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.*

# Winter Storage

Gasper recommends 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.



# Teak



## Facts and Care Instructions

Gasper does 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.

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.



# Protection

**Teak Shield** is a completely transparent product that makes it difficult for stains from red wine, salad oil and coffee to penetrate wood. Fresh spills can be wiped away with a damp cloth. **Teak Shield** can be used on clean, naturally weathered wood or on furniture that has been treated with our **Teak Protector**. We recommend applying it two or more times per year depending on use and exposure.



## Before Use

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. Also, to protect your sling furniture, move sling chairs out from under teak tables for the first few rainfalls. Once the furniture has begun to form a silver-gray patina, it is no longer necessary to bring the cushions indoors or move sling chairs.

**TIP:** *This information also applies to fabric umbrella canopies used on teak umbrella frames.*

## Cushions

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.





# Weatherproofing Teak

Teak wood furniture, when exposed to the outdoors, will form a handsome 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 and in no way affects the structural integrity of the furniture. Checking is not covered by warranty.

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.



# Weathering Process

To aid the weathering process, simply clean the furniture with a soft bristle brush or sponge as indicated in our cleaning instructions.

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.





# Cleaning Teak

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  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup laundry detergent and  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup bleach in 1 gallon of warm water. When finished, rinse the entire piece with more fresh water to remove any remaining cleaning solution.

This procedure is sufficient for general cleaning. For more difficult stains, we recommend using any teak cleaner. This will remove the silver-gray patina and restore the furniture to a golden brown color.

## Black Dots

Although teak wood itself will not mildew, mildew sometimes grows on dirt and other substances that are not removed from the wood. This occurs more commonly in warm, humid climates. If this happens, follow the standard clearing instructions immediately. Do not let the mildew remain on the wood. Doing so could cause stains on the wood that are difficult to remove.



# Preventing Mildew

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

**Teak Shield** has also been shown to impede mildew growth.



## Winter Storage

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.



## Storage with Sling Material

We recommend storing or covering furniture with slings in freezing temperature. The upholstery (sling) should not be exposed to snow or ice as this may result in damage. The best place to store furniture is a dry garage, garden shed or basement. If furniture covers will be used, they should allow for proper ventilation.



# Maintaining Teak Color

If you prefer to keep your furniture the original golden color, we recommend using **Kingsley-Bate Teak Protector**. This is for purely cosmetic purposes. This product will maintain the golden color for a season and can be reapplied as needed. You should wait 2 weeks before applying the protector to newly assembled furniture.



# Fabric



## Fabric for the Outdoors

Outdoor fabrics are designed to endure years of sun, soil and moisture. But the life of your patio furniture fabric largely depends on its care and use. Suntan and sun block products may permanently discolor any fabric. As with any other stain, this possibility can be minimized by immediately cleaning after contact.



# Protecting Fabric

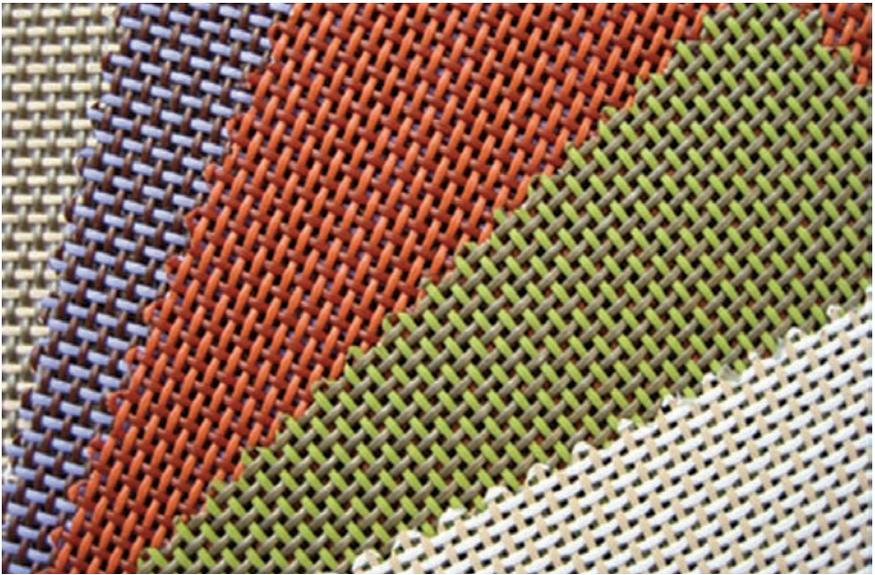
Molds and mildews grow on dirt and impurities, so it is important to clean your fabrics regularly. In addition, storing your furniture, covering and protecting it from extreme elements will extend its life.





## Slings and Straps

Occasionally, washing off your sling fabrics with a garden hose and soft bristle brush is your best defense. Slings are design to allow water and air to flow through for quick drying. Mix a solution of 3 parts warm water with 1 part mild detergent and  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of bleach, apply with a soft brush and rinse thoroughly.





## Cushions

Wash briskly with a sponge or soft brush using a solution of mild detergent and warm water. Rinse thoroughly with clean water. Allow to air dry.

**HINT:** *Cushions dry faster if they are allowed to stand on their side while drying.*





## Suborn Stains

Do not leave detergent residue in your fabrics or use solvent-type cleaners which will cause the yarn to become brittle. To remove stubborn stains or mildew, one quarter cup of bleach can be mixed with the detergent. Spray on entire area and allow it to soak in. If necessary, scrub vigorously with a sponge or soft bristle brush. Rinse thoroughly with clean water and air dry.

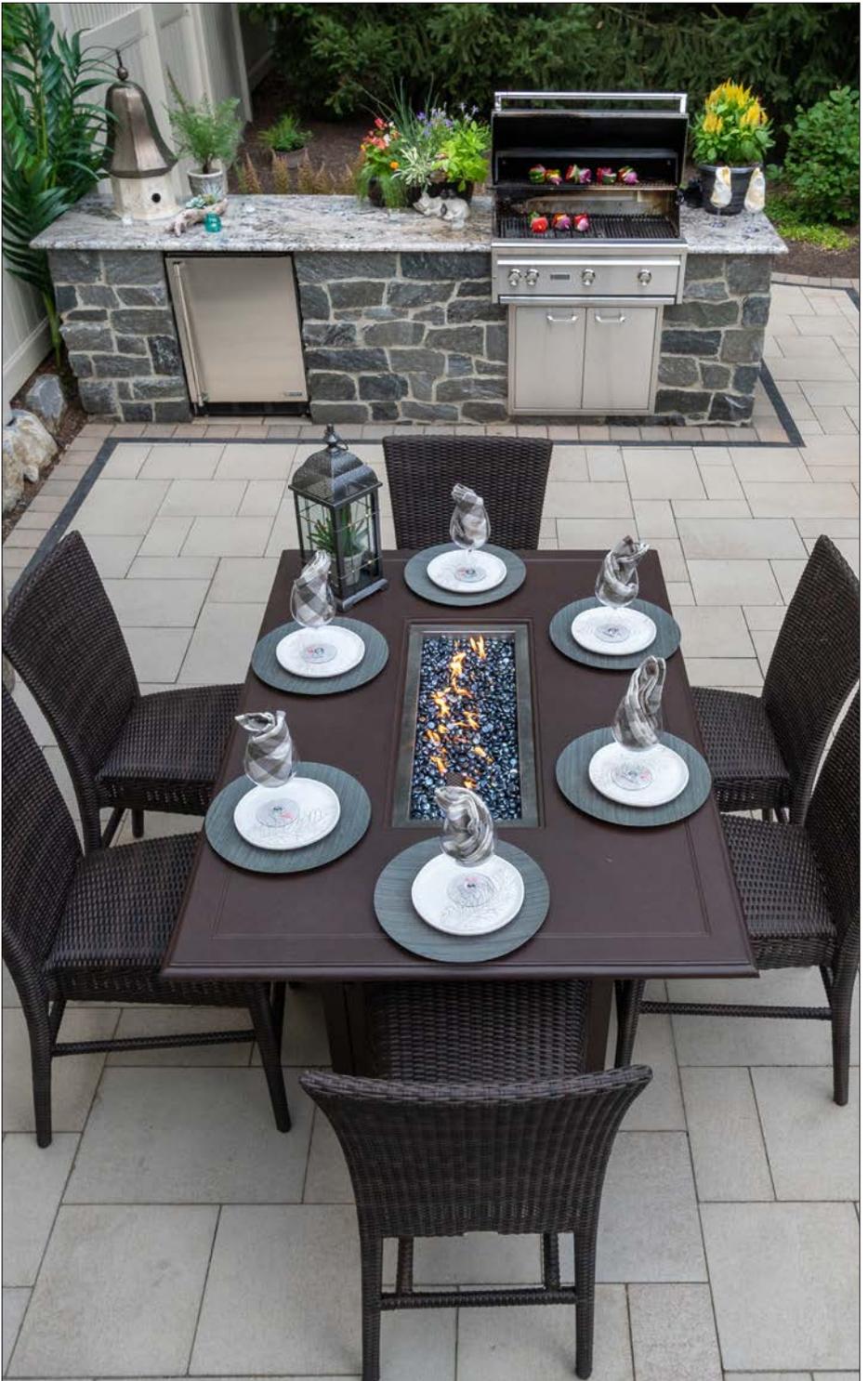
**IMPORTANT:** *Don't use bleach on printed fabrics.*



# Gasper Can Help

If you are not sure about how to take good care of your outdoor furniture, or if you have questions, you can ask one of the many knowledgeable, expert design consultants in the Outdoor Furniture Department at Gasper Garden Center.







# About Gasper

## **GASPER LANDSCAPES**

### *Outdoor Living Perfected*

Here at Gasper Landscape Design & Construction, we are proudly celebrating our 30th year anniversary. As the area's premier design-build company, our award-winning team of sales designers, landscape designers and architects, seasoned craftsmen, carpenters, masons and horticulturalist have the ability to take on any size landscape, hardscape or carpentry project. We will guide you through the entire design process, from your initial consultation to your project's completion. We hope that you take a minute to look through our website, featured projects, and online project portfolio. We are very proud of our work and what our many satisfied customers have to say about the Gasper experience. Contact us today to discuss how Gasper can help you with your next project.



## **GASPER HOME & GARDEN SHOWPLACE**

### *Delaware Valley's Finest Garden Center Destination*

Gasper's 6-acre nursery and greenhouse offers landscape products, pond supplies, gardening accessories, outdoor furniture, pottery, unique gifts and seasonal home decor that truly define us as a one-stop-garden-shop. Our retail center is open year-round and staffed with gardening, pond care, furniture, and hardscape experts to assist you with all of your landscaping needs. We also offer free informational seminars and Do-It-Yourself workshops throughout the year and celebrate the changing seasons with family-fun, kid-friendly events. Come and see why Gasper has been awarded the "Best of Bucks" award for over 10 years.

## **WORLD-CLASS SERVICE & HIGH-QUALITY PRODUCTS**

### *A Tradition Built By a Family's Love of Landscaping*

For over 30 years, the Gasper family has been bringing their love of landscaping, gardening and stellar customer service to the Delaware Valley. Bob, Paula, Dana and Bobby pride themselves in not only their love of the business, but their accomplishments in becoming an award-winning and widely praised full-service design and build landscape company and garden center. On behalf of the Gasper family and entire staff, we welcome you to discover the Gasper difference and see for yourself why we have earned the distinction of being Bucks County's finest landscape company and destination garden center.

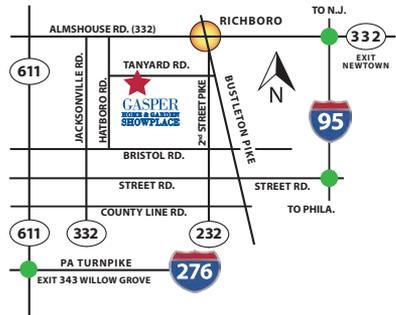
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DELAWARE VALLEY'S  
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PREMIER DESIGN-BUILD COMPANY



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