

# 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 that may come in.

### 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. This information also applies to fabric umbrella canopies used on teak umbrella frames.



### Teak continued

#### Protection

Most manufacturers Teak Shield is a completely transparent product that make it difficult for stains from red wine, salad oil and coffee to penetrate wood, so that 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.



#### 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.

#### The Weathering Process

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.



### Teak continued

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. 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. To aid this 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**

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 2/3 cup laundry detergent and ¼ cup bleach in 1 gallon of warm water. When finished, rinse the entire piece with more fresh





### Teak continued

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 foreign 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 for too long. 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.

#### **Winter Storage With Sling Materials**

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.

