

TAKE GOOD CARE OF GOOD FURNITURE

“Take good care of good furniture” is published by the Danish Furnituremakers’ Quality Control, whose objective it is to promote the manufacturing of high quality furniture in Denmark.

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IMPORTANT ADVICE ON FURNITURE MAINTENANCE

Warning! Never use solvents (e.g. methylated spirits, white spirit, thinner, benzine, acetone etc.) unless the manufacturer's instructions explicitly state that this is allowed. Solvents are inflammable, dangerous to inhale, and can damage surface treatment on wood, leather and other materials. They can also damage upholstery materials if they are used to clean textiles.

THE FOLLOWING RULES MUST ALSO BE OBSERVED:

1. Always follow the instructions provided with the furniture.
2. Always start by using the mildest cleaning agent, i.e. demineralised or cold, boiled water.
3. Candle wax and chewing gum are most easily removed after careful freezing with a carbon dioxide freeze spray (available at most electronics retailers).
4. Never use abrasive cleaning agents such as scouring powder and metal polishes or cleaning agents that contain ammonia.
5. Remember to tighten knock-down fittings where necessary.
6. If there are no washing instructions provided, then the furniture textile cannot be washed. Cleaning of furniture textiles must only be done according to the manufacturer's instructions. NB! To facilitate fitting, furniture coverings often have zippers, but this does not indicate that the coverings can be washed.
7. Cushions with loose stuffing such as down and feathers need to be beaten at regular intervals.
8. Always protect tabletops against heat, damp or coloured objects (for example saucepans, vases, candles and plant pots) with doilies. Always protect the surface when using sharp tools.
9. To preserve the colours of the materials they should as far as possible be protected from direct sunlight. It is recommended that surfaces should not be partly covered, for example by tablecloths etc.
10. Please note that chair and table legs in particular can leave stains (especially in connection with washing floors or cleaning carpets).
11. Never place furniture directly up against radiators or heaters.
12. Indoor furniture should never be used outdoors.
13. Sweat can cause damage to wood and leather surfaces. Certain types of medicine can alter the composition of sweat and subsequently increase this effect.
14. If furniture is accidentally damaged, ask for advice at the retailer's where you bought the furniture.

CLEANING SOLUTIONS

Soap solution is made with 1 part soap flakes to 40 parts hot water. Cool before use.

Soft soap should not be used unless this is explicitly recommended in the manufacturer's instructions.

Solution with washing-up liquid: Follow the manufacturer's instructions. Use no more than 1 tsp. washing-up liquid per litre water. When using concentrated liquids, a few drops per litre water will suffice.

TAKE GOOD CARE OF GOOD FURNITURE

All good things that are made to last need care. Even a piece of furniture that is produced to satisfy customers' expectations for a long time needs looking after.

This leaflet offers advice on correct furniture care so as to extend its life. Modern furniture production includes so many different materials that it is not possible to deal with all of them in a leaflet of limited size. This leaflet includes the most commonly used materials and surfaces.

The leaflet contains advice on the maintenance of furniture made of wood and other materials, furniture textiles and furniture leather. It also contains illustrations of the distinctive marks found on genuine leather.

CHOICE OF FURNITURE

When choosing furniture it is important to keep in mind the wear and tear it will be subject to. For example, furniture for a family with children and a dog must be stronger, more hard-wearing, and have a more resistant surface than furniture for a person who lives alone.

Surface treatment, textiles and leather are features that immediately characterize a piece of furniture, and it is therefore extremely important that they are chosen on the basis of the correct requirements. The strength and durability of the furniture must naturally also be chosen on the basis of the correct requirements.

One thing that often causes problems is the change in colour that takes place during the lifetime of a piece of furniture. All materials change colour to a lesser or greater degree when they are subjected to light – and to sunlight in particular. Especially wood, coloured lacquers (paints), stains, textiles and leather change colour. For all these materials it is a well known and perfectly natural property that they will alter colour when exposed to light.

It is therefore important to protect furniture from sunlight, but it is also recommended that

new furniture is not left partly covered by tablecloths or doilies because this can lead to differences in colour between the covered and the uncovered areas.

The furniture retailer will be able to advise the customer on the basis of information that is provided with the individual types of furniture and the types of furniture textiles and leather.

In the case of mattresses, they should always be placed on a surface that provides sufficient ventilation, e.g. on slats, springs, or a board with a sufficient number of ventilation holes.

WOODEN FURNITURE

Due to its many properties wood has always been the preferred material in the production of furniture all over the world. Each individual tree is a piece of nature that, even after felling and cutting, retains its own character in its strength, structure and sensitivity – particularly its sensitivity to light. There will therefore **always** be natural differences in the appearance of wood. Knots are a characteristic of wood. They are not faults, but the natural consequence of branches growing out from the tree trunk.

Through time, all wooden furniture will, as a consequence of the effect of light and use, change colour.

Moisture in the air, the relative humidity, varies with the seasons – indoors as well as outdoors. Wood is sensitive to these changes in relative humidity and expands and shrinks. This causes solid tabletops to become slightly uneven which is perfectly natural.

Moisture is the worst enemy of all wooden furniture. All spilt liquids should be wiped up immediately. Water should be used only sparingly – preferably in the form of a damp cloth – and be wiped off with a dry cloth straight away. This also applies when cleaning/treating with soap solution and solution with washing-up liquid.

MAINTENANCE OF WOODEN FURNITURE SURFACES

UNTREATED AND SOAP-TREATED SOLID WOOD SURFACES

General maintenance: Wipe with a clean dry cloth. Soiled surfaces should be wiped with a cloth wrung out in soap solution (see *Cleaning Solutions*). Soft soap should **only** be used on pine (soft woods) where it leaves a light grey patina. On oak and other woods with a high percentage of tannic acid the use of soft soap can result in a strong dark colour.

Thorough cleaning: Wash the entire surface with a brush and then wipe the surface with a cloth wrung out in soap solution (see *Cleaning Solutions*). Difficult grease marks can be removed with benzene. **Caution – fire risk! Provide ventilation!**

If the wood fibres have risen due to the use of liquids, they can be sanded down – always along the grain – with grade 180 or 220 sand paper. **Never use steel wool. It can cause discolouring!** Frequent sanding renders the surface less resistant to dirt. Frequent treatment with soap solution will lessen the fibre-rising tendency and increase surface resistance.

SURFACES TREATED WITH WAX

General maintenance: Wipe with a clean dry cloth. Never use a damp cloth! Spilt liquids etc. should be wiped up immediately.

Thorough cleaning: Remove stains caused by liquids after they are completely dry. Clean the surface thoroughly with a dry clean cloth moistened with white spirit. **Caution – fire risk! Provide ventilation!** If the wood fibres rise due to the use of liquids, they can be sanded down – always along the grain – with grade 180 or 220 sand paper. **Never use steel wool. It can cause discolouring!**

When dry, apply a thin coat of furniture wax suitable for the wood in question. Polish off after 15 minutes with a piece of sackcloth or hessian. Always follow the instructions provided by the wax manufacturer. Wax-treated surfaces can also be brushed along the grain with a clean brush with close-set bristles, for example a clean shoe brush.

SURFACES TREATED WITH OIL

General maintenance: Wipe off with a clean dry cloth. If the surface is stained, wipe the whole surface with a cloth wrung out in soap solution or water and washing-up liquid (see *Cleaning Solutions*). Wipe off with a clean dry cloth.

Thorough cleaning: Thin layers of oil can be removed with white spirit. **Caution – fire risk! Provide ventilation!** Wipe off and apply a thin layer of the recommended oil. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions. If necessary, the surface can be gently sanded in the wet oil – always along the grain – using grade 320 or 360 sand paper. Fine ScotchBrite can also be used. Wipe off thoroughly with clean dry cloths

Warning! Cloths with furniture oil can self-ignite and should therefore be soaked with water, wrapped in aluminium foil and disposed of after use.

LAQUERED SURFACES (DOES NOT APPLY TO FRENCH-POLISHED SURFACES)

General maintenance: Wipe with a clean dry cloth or a cloth wrung out in clean water. Wipe off immediately with a clean dry cloth. Wipe soiled surfaces with a cloth wrung out in soap solution or water and washing-up liquid (see *Cleaning Solutions*). Wipe off immediately with a clean dry cloth.

Thorough cleaning: A wide range of polishes for cleaning and maintaining glossy and matt lacquered finishes is available for various types of wood. Products for dark wood can cause changes in the colour and lustre of light wood. Products with silicone are resistant to moisture and dirt, but can penetrate the lacquer and hinder future treatment with lacquers. The sanding of lacquered surfaces should always be left to an expert. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for the product in question.

Scuffmarks from shoes etc. on chair and table legs can easily be removed with benzene. **Caution – fire risk! Provide ventilation!**

TREATMENT OF OTHER FURNITURE SURFACES

METAL FURNITURE

The most common metals used in furniture production today are aluminium and chromium-plated, lacquered or stainless steel. All these surfaces are resistant to dirt as well as liquids. However, water can stain aluminium and stainless steel as well as cause damaged chromium-plated and lacquered steel surfaces to rust.

General maintenance: Wipe with a cloth wrung out in water and washing-up liquid (see *Cleaning Solutions*).

Thorough cleaning: Aluminium, chromium-plated and stainless steel can be wiped with a cloth moistened with methylated spirits. **Caution – fire risk! Provide ventilation!** Clean lacquered metal in the same manner as lacquered wood surfaces.

PLASTIC FURNITURE

Plastic surfaces on furniture are usually melamine (e.g. plastic laminate), various types of foils, surface-coatings on metals and plastic coverings on upholstered parts. Upholstery covers are usually made from PVC, polypropylene (PP) or polyurethane (PUR). These can have either a glossy, matt or leather structure surface.

General maintenance: Wipe with a cloth wrung out in hot water with washing-up liquid (see *Cleaning Solutions*). Soap flakes are not suitable because they leave a film on the surface.

Thorough cleaning: Melamine surfaces (e.g. plastic laminate) can be cleaned with a cloth moistened with methylated spirits.

LINOLEUM

Linoleum is manufactured from oxidised linseed oil mixed with fillings and dyes. To maintain the appearance and performance of linoleum, never apply oil or lacquer.

General maintenance: Wipe with a clean dry cloth or a cloth wrung out in clean water and wipe off immediately with a clean dry cloth. Wipe soiled surfaces with a cloth wrung out in soap solution (see *Cleaning Solutions*) or with a cleaning agent especially made for cleaning linoleum. Wipe the surface dry immediately using a clean dry cloth. Stains can usually be removed by carefully wiping with white spirit. **Caution – fire risk! Provide ventilation!**

Thorough cleaning: Clean very dirty linoleum

surfaces with linoleum cleaner and linoleum maintenance treatment agents. Always follow the instructions. Once a year, or twice at the most, linoleum surfaces may be treated with a very thin layer of liquid wax. Wipe off thoroughly after 15 minutes. This can leave the surface glossier, but it is also more resistant to dirt.

Aggressive cleaning agents such as strong cleaners, soft soap and washing-up liquid should never be used.

STONE (E.G. GRANITE, MARBLE, SLATE)

Stone is not resistant to acids, e.g., lemon juice. Wine, lemon juice and similar stains can be virtually impossible to remove. Polished stone and plastic-coated stone can be damaged by abrasive cleaning agents.

General maintenance: Wipe with a cloth wrung out in hot water with washing-up liquid (see *Cleaning Solutions*).

Thorough cleaning: Because of the many different types of stone surfaces, it is recommended that the furniture manufacturer's instructions be followed in each individual case.

FURNITURE TEXTILES

Natural fibres, synthetic fibres and mixtures of these are all used for textiles. Many different weaving methods are also used, which results in a great diversity with regard to wear resistance, colour fastness, shrinkage, resistance to dirt, flammability etc. The retailer can advise on these matters on the basis of the information supplied by the manufacturer with each piece of furniture.

Wool is one of the best materials for furniture textiles because of its elasticity, wearability and resistance to dirt. For example, a cigarette ember that is quickly removed will only leave a small mark that can easily be brushed or sanded away.

Cotton is hardwearing, but is not as elastic as wool. It is also easily soiled, and is therefore often impregnated to increase resistance to dirt. A cigarette ember that is quickly removed usually leaves a small hole. Brushed cotton should only be used for furniture that is subject to a minimum of wear and tear.

Flax used on firm upholstery is very hardwearing, whereas wrinkling that can eventually cause cracking can occur on soft upholstered

seats. Flax is sensitive to dirt and is easily stained. A cigarette ember that is quickly removed usually leaves a small hole.

Synthetic fibres such as polyamide and polyester (including micro fibre materials and Trevira CS) are generally hardwearing and easy to clean. A cigarette ember that is quickly removed usually leaves a small hole.

FURNITURE TEXTILE MAINTENANCE

General maintenance: Vacuum clean often, at least once a week. Non-greasy stains are removed by rubbing gently with a clean non-fluff cloth wrung out in soapy water or water with washing-up liquid (see *Cleaning Solutions*). Wipe the surface with a clean soft cloth wrung out in warm water. **Warning!** Do **not** rub or brush micro fibre materials while they are wet.

Stain removal: Stain removers should only be used after testing the reaction on a small inconspicuous spot. Discolouration is avoided by rubbing gently towards the centre of the stain using circular movements. Never use stain removers if there is latex-foam filling under the upholstery. Foam cleaners can be used if the instructions provided are followed. Removable covers can very often be dry-cleaned. If in doubt, ask the retailer.

Warning! Never use solvents. Solvents can dissolve underlying upholstery materials.

FURNITURE LEATHER

Leather is a natural material. It is therefore perfectly natural that the finished furniture leather is marked by events that affected the animal during its lifetime. The following marks in a sample of finished furniture leather (*see illustrations*) are characteristic for genuine leather as opposed to artificial leather (plastic), which has a regular structure.

Healed and open wounds are the result of scratches and cuts caused by thorns, barbed wire or fights.

Dung damage is caused by dung corroding the hide.

Insect bites are small marks caused by insect stings.

Neck wrinkles are caused by growth and provide an extra charm in genuine leather.

Ringworm is caused by a fungal infection in the live animal.

Sorting and tanning

Processing and sorting takes place at the tannery before the final delivery to the furniture manufacturer.

Processing primarily consists of tanning where two distinct methods are employed: vegetable tanning and chromium tanning.

Chromium tanning is by far the most common process. Chromium-tanned leather is softer and more supple than vegetable-tanned leather. It is used for both firm and soft upholstery.

Vegetable-tanned leather is more frequently used for firm upholstery.

Dyeing and coating

There is a distinction between aniline-dyes and surface coatings.

Aniline-dyes soak into the grain of the leather, and retain its original structure. Surface coatings are coatings of pigmented lacquer sprayed onto the aniline-dyed leather surface. The coloured layer lies on top of the leather surface.

Furniture leather is divided into four main groups:

1. Pigmented leather (leather with a protective surface coating) is, depending on the characteristics of the coating, well protected against external influences. It has greater colour fastness as compared to aniline-dyed leather, and the protective surface coating renders it resistant to water and dirt etc. Pigmented leather can also be sanded and embossed with a pattern (called grained) in order to conceal faults.
2. Semi-aniline leather has a thinner surface coating than coated leather. The surface is reasonably resistant to external influences. Semi-aniline leather becomes darker in use.
3. Leather with no protective layer – aniline-dyed leather and vegetable-dyed natural coloured leather – is untreated or has only a very thin surface protection and is therefore extremely susceptible to dirt, liquids and grease. Vegetable-dyed natural colour leather becomes darker in use.
4. Split is the flesh side of the hide and is rough on both sides. Split can be either untreated or sanded, embossed, and surface coated in the same manner as pigmented leather, but it is not as strong.

MAINTENANCE OF LEATHER FURNITURE

Avoid exposing leather furniture to direct sunlight or strong heat.

PIGMENTED LEATHER

General maintenance: Wipe with a clean soft cloth. When slightly soiled, wipe with a clean soft cloth wrung out in demineralised or cold, boiled water.

Thorough cleaning (only when absolutely necessary): Wipe or gently rub the whole surface

with a clean soft cloth wrung out in soap solution (see *Cleaning Solutions*). Spilt liquids etc. must be wiped off immediately. Do not vacuum as this may scratch the surface.

Removal of spots is not advisable! Washing-up liquids and solvents should not be used. Leather cream or leather oil should only be used when absolutely necessary. **Warning!** If the surface is damaged or worn, leather cream or oil can cause blotches or discolouring.

SEMI-ANILINE AND UNPROTECTED LEATHER SURFACES

General maintenance: Wipe with a clean soft cloth. When slightly soiled, wipe the whole surface with a clean soft cloth wrung out in demineralised or cold boiled water. Wipe the whole surface over quickly to avoid blotches.

Thorough cleaning (only when absolutely neces-

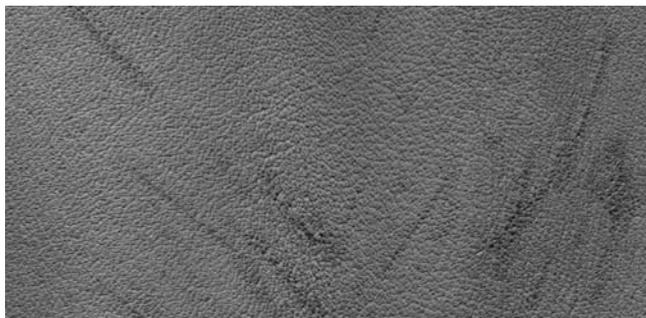
sary): Wipe the whole surface with a clean soft cloth wrung out in soap solution (see *Cleaning Solutions*). Spilt liquids etc. must be wiped off immediately. Do not vacuum as this may scratch the surface. Removal of spots is *not* recommended. Washing-up liquids, solvents and fats (leather cream and oil) should not be used.

UNTREATED SPLIT

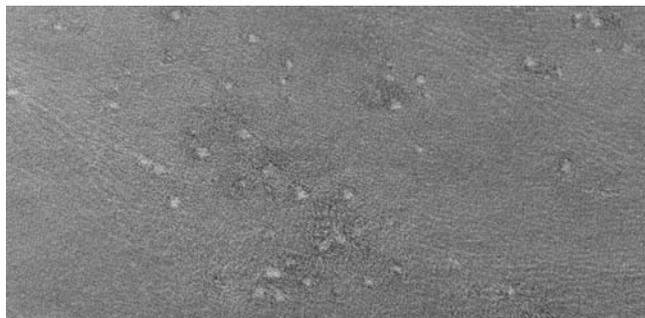
General maintenance: Vacuum or brush frequently, with e.g. a clothes brush.

Thorough cleaning (only when absolutely necessary): Wipe the whole surface with a clean soft cloth wrung out in soap solution (see *Cleaning Solutions*). Spilt liquids etc. must be wiped off immediately. Removal of spots is *not* recommended. Washing-up liquids, solvents and fats (leather cream and oil) should not be used.

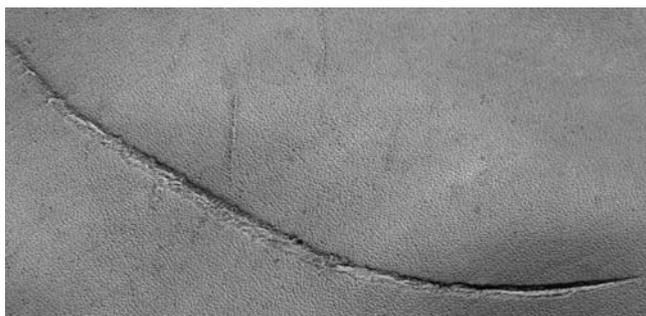
CHARACTERISTICS OF GENUINE LEATHER



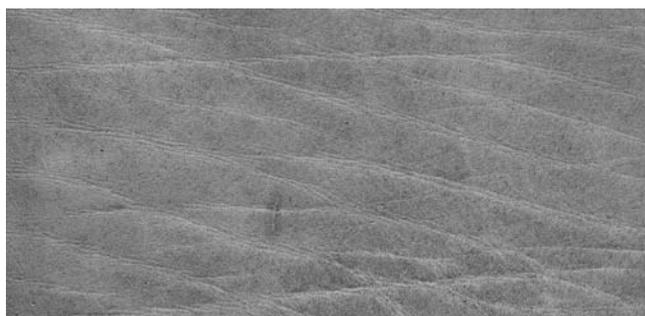
HEALED WOUNDS – usually caused by cuts from barbed wire, thorns or fights. They do not reduce the strength of the leather.



INSECT BITES – small circular marks or holes in the leather. They do not reduce the strength of the leather.



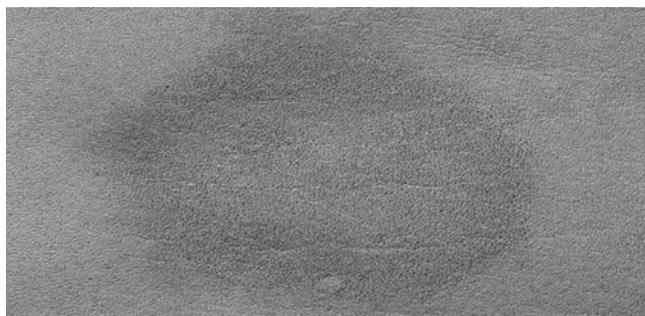
OPEN WOUNDS – causes as for healed wounds. They can reduce the strength of the leather and should therefore not be used where there is a risk of significant wear and tear.



NECK WRINKLES – coarse surface structure caused by growth. They do not reduce the strength of the leather.



DUNG DAMAGE – rough and/or open structure caused by dung corroding the hide of the live animal. This can reduce the strength of the leather and should therefore not be used where there is a risk of significant wear and tear.



RING WORM – resembles a blotch and is caused by a fungal infection in the live animal. It does not reduce the strength of the leather.