



Furniture Maintenance Guide

Cleaning Your Wood & Metal Furniture

The guidelines for furniture maintenance are pretty simple. If the furniture is used wisely and handled carefully, it will need very little in the way of routine maintenance.

For the most part, maintaining furniture simply means keeping it clean. Wood furniture usually needs to be cleaned only when there is a buildup of wax or dirt. Make sure to clean only when needed, excessive cleaning can damage the surface. Excessive moisture and humidity can damage furniture finishes and can cause wood to swell and crack.

Loose dust on the surface can be removed with a soft, lint-free cloth, **lightly** moistened and gently rubbed over the surface, and be sure to make sure the surface is completely dry when complete. Dust is an abrasive and can scratch the surface. Always dust with the grain of the wood. Uneven areas can be dusted with clean natural bristle paint or a soft artist's brush. A common product used for dusting is *Endust*, which leaves no residue.

Oily dirt or waxy residue can be removed with a mild vinegar and water solution on a cloth, then use a slightly damp cloth with no cleaning solution to remove any cleaner and **then be sure to wipe completely dry**. It is vital to make sure that the cleaning solution does not affect the underlying surface. Even when you determine a cleaning method that works successfully, proceed cautiously.

Following this simple cleaning, further protection and aesthetic enhancement can be obtained through the application of a stable, hard furniture polish, such as a hard paste wax. The hard wax surface can be dusted more easily because it will be smoother, and the dust will not be embedded in it as it would in an un-waxed surface. Waxing need only occur infrequently, only once every few years if needed, because the wax itself is not readily removed and it does not degrade chemically. Waxing too often can result in a built-up, cloudy surface. Be careful when using this method.

This simple approach avoids the problems created by popular methods of "furniture polishing" - such as sprays and oily polishes - that may result in cumulative damage to furniture. Many polishes and residues can build up over time and with numerous applications, trap airborne dirt onto the surface.

Routine Maintenance

Routine Maintenance: Casters: adding casters to a piece of furniture indicates that the piece is intended to be portable. Because of this it is important to understand that over time and heavy use, casters may work loose and will need to be tightened periodically to insure the casters will last.

Routine Maintenance: Chair Glides: Also, seating glides are subject to standard wear and tear so it is important to check them periodically to make sure they are in good condition and that your floor is being properly protected. If your Agati Chairs are in high use areas we recommend checking them at least once a year.

Moving Your Furniture

When moving your furniture it is important to lift the piece off the floor while moving it to its new location. Pieces that are too big to lift should be dismantled by a professional, moved and re-built in its new location. Dragging furniture across floors will result in parts vibrating and loosening over time.

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Cleaning Upholstery

Be careful when using commercial upholstery shampoos on your upholstered furniture as it could stain or even damage some fabrics. Agati recommends hiring professional upholstery cleaner when the need arrives. Check the Upholstery/Fabric manufacturer's website for cleaning instructions specific to the textile used on your furniture.

Dust settles on upholstered furniture just as it does on hard surfaces. Depending on environment and use, dust should be removed regularly with vacuum cleaner attachments - the upholstery nozzle and crevice tool. A brush will remove some dust if a vacuum is not available. Be aware that a brush will also scatter dust more, as well.

Sincerely,

Agati Furniture