PRESERVING THE BEAUTY

A COMPLETE GUIDE TO FURNITURE
CARE AND MAINTENANCE



ABSTRACT

"Preserving the Beauty: A Complete Guide to Furniture Care and Maintenance" offers comprehensive insights into maintaining the aesthetic appeal and longevity of various types of furniture. This guide encompasses diverse topics ranging from cleaning techniques tailored to specific materials, preventive measures against environmental factors like sunlight and moisture, to polishing, restoration, and handling strategies. Special attention is given to delicate materials, antique furniture, and seasonal maintenance practices.



Additionally, the abstract emphasizes the importance of professional services, storage solutions, DIY repairs, and environmental considerations in prolonging the lifespan of furniture while minimizing environmental impact. This guide serves as a valuable resource for homeowners, interior decorators, antique collectors, and anyone passionate about preserving the beauty and functionality of their furniture pieces.

LET'S GET STARTED

The guide begins by delving into the realm of cleaning techniques, providing tailored methods for different materials such as wood, metal, glass, and upholstery. From gentle dusting to specialized surface cleaning, readers learn how to

effectively remove dirt and grime without compromising the integrity of their furniture surfaces. Upholstery care is also emphasized, with guidelines for cleaning and maintaining fabric, leather, and other upholstery materials.

Ultimately, Special care instructions cater to delicate materials and antique furniture, acknowledging their unique preservation needs. Seasonal maintenance practices are also highlighted, emphasizing the importance of regular inspections and climate control to mitigate potential damage.'

HOW CAN YOU PRESERVE THE BEAUTY OF FURNITURE?



Preserving the beauty of furniture requires a combination of proactive care, preventive measures, and occasional restoration efforts. Here are some key strategies to help maintain the aesthetic appeal and longevity of furniture:

1. **Regular Cleaning:** Dust furniture surfaces regularly using a soft cloth or a vacuum cleaner with a brush attachment to prevent the buildup of dirt and debris. For deeper cleaning, use appropriate cleaning agents and techniques based on the material of the furniture.

- 2. **Preventive Measures**: Protect furniture from environmental factors such as sunlight, moisture, and scratches. Use curtains or blinds to minimize exposure to direct sunlight, place coasters or mats under items to prevent scratches and dents, and maintain consistent humidity levels to prevent warping or cracking.
- 3. **Polishing and Maintenance**: Polish wood furniture periodically to maintain its shine and luster. Use specialized polishes or natural oils to nourish the wood and protect it from drying out. For metal furniture, remove tarnish and restore shine using suitable metal polishes.
- 4. Handle with Care: Use proper lifting techniques when moving furniture to avoid strain or injury. Consider using furniture sliders or pads to minimize friction and protect floors during relocation.
- 5. **Specialized Care**: Take special care of delicate materials such as marble, glass, or intricate wood carvings. Use gentle cleaning agents and avoid abrasive tools or harsh chemicals that may damage these materials.
- 6. **Seasonal Maintenance**: Conduct regular inspections and maintenance tasks to address seasonal changes and potential issues. Adjust furniture placement to avoid direct heat sources or drafts, and monitor humidity levels to prevent moisture-related damage.
- 7. **Professional Services**: Seek professional help for tasks such as furniture restoration or upholstery cleaning, especially for antique or delicate pieces that require specialized care.
- 8. **Storage Solutions**: Properly store furniture during periods of non-use, such as during moves or renovations, to protect it from damage. Use breathable covers or blankets to shield furniture from dust and scratches while in storage.
- 9. **DIY Repairs:** Learn basic DIY repair techniques for minor scratches, dents, or other common issues. With proper tools and guidance, you can address minor damages and prolong the lifespan of your furniture.

TIPS TO HELP YOUR OUTDOOR FURNITURE LAST

As the outdoor living trend continues, you might be focusing more attention on your patio furniture and accessories than those inside your home. Especially if you plan to spend a considerable amount on your outdoor furniture (or you already did), you'll want each piece to last more than just a couple of seasons.



Protect Your Furniture From the Sun

Yes, patio furniture is meant for you to laze around on when it's sunny and hot. But just as you should cover yourself up with SPF or a big floppy hat to protect your skin from sunburn, you'll want to show some love for your outdoor furniture, too.

"The sun can cause your furniture to fade, crack or warp over time," says Bryan Clayton, Founder of GreenPal, an online platform that connects homeowners with lawn maintenance pros in their area. "To prevent this, you should cover your furniture with a UV-resistant fabric or a tarp when not in use."

He also suggests moving outdoor furniture to a shaded area when not in use or installing an umbrella or canopy that provides both shade and protection.

• Clean Your Furniture Regularly

It's not pleasant to eat a meal at a dirty patio table or lay out on a lounge chair that's been the recipient of "presents" from birds flying overhead. Aside from the ick factor, cleaning your outdoor furniture ensures it lasts longer.

"Generally, you should wipe down your furniture with a damp cloth or a mild soap solution at least once a month to remove dust, dirt, pollen or stains," says Clayton. "You can also use a soft brush or a vacuum to remove any debris from the crevices or cushions."

• But Make Sure to Use the Right Cleaning Products

Clean outdoor furniture is the goal, but don't just grab any product and start scrubbing.

"All cleaning products are not equal," says Artem Kropovinsky, interior designer and founder of Arsight, a design studio based in New York, NY. "It is crucial to use products specifically designed for outdoor furniture." He recommends avoiding anything with harsh chemicals or abrasive cleansers that will do more harm than good to your furniture.

To avoid mishaps for your furniture, read cleaning product labels carefully before using, then clean a test spot on a hidden part of a chair or table first to see if there's any discoloration or other damage.

• Wipe Up Food and Drink Spills Quickly

If you're enjoying drinks or a meal al fresco, don't leave any food or beverages behind. "Food and drinks can attract pests and lead to stains," says Kropovinsky. Spills should also be picked up promptly for the same reasons. You might consider keeping a cleaning rag and spray bottle of gentle cleanser nearby to make cleanup a breeze.

• Dry Out Damp Cushions

Waterlogged cushions are uncomfortable to sit on at best and can be a breeding ground for mold and mildew at worst. If you have left them out in the rain, you'll want to dry them out as quickly as possible.

Lindsay Schleis, VP of Business Development at POLYWOOD, a furniture company, recommends simply tipping cushions on their side to drain away water—and being more diligent about putting them away for next time.

"Keeping your furniture covered when not in use is always a smart idea, especially if you have cushioned products," says Schleis. "While outdoor fabric is weather resistant, it is not necessarily weatherproof."

Secure Outdoor Furniture Before a Storm

Soggy cushions are nothing compared to what could happen to your furniture when the weather really kicks up. Responsible homeowners should always take down umbrellas and secure other outdoor furniture and objects that might cause injury or other property damage, should they take flight in extreme winds. Aside from the obvious safety precaution, it goes without saying that you won't be able to enjoy patio furniture that has been destroyed in a storm.

• Store or Cover Patio Furniture During the Off-Season

Bringing furniture indoors or stacking it up in a shed during the winter are good options. But it's also fine to cover your furniture with tarps or coverings—Clayton recommends looking for ones that are UV-resistant. Tight on both storage space and yard space? Stack your furniture and hire a company that will shrink-wrap it right in your backyard until it's ready to be used again.

• Opt for Durable, Low-Maintenance Furniture

If you're in the market for new outdoor furniture for next season, shop with an eye toward materials that will last for many sun-drenched seasons.

Wax or Refinish the Surface

Much like a coat of wax on a car can do wonders to restore shine and repel water, you can give new life to your patio furniture with the right refinishing technique.

For example, if you've got aluminum or steel patio furniture, Schleis says you can apply car wax twice a year to prevent fading. Apply the wax after hand washing the furniture with mild soap and water.

• Call the Professionals for Help

There's no judgment here if you got a little—or a lot—behind on your patio furniture maintenance. Provided your chairs and tables are not in splinters or otherwise in shambles, Kropovinsky recommends hiring a furniture cleaning professional to restore them to their former glory.

Summer is all about relaxation, which is why it's great to see that it doesn't take much maintenance to keep your outdoor furniture looking good.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHILE BUYING FURNITURE

Serious injuries and deaths have happened when furniture or TVs have fallen onto children and adults. For this reason, there's a mandatory information standard that suppliers and retailers must comply with.

Think about safety when you're buying furniture and TVs, especially if you have young children in your home or who might visit. When you're out shopping, use these tips to help you choose safer furniture.

- Examine the furniture to make sure it is stable.
- Pull out any top drawers of a chest of drawers or open doors on other furniture items and apply a little pressure to see how stable the furniture is.
- Make sure the drawers don't fall out easily.
- Look for built in drawer stops that limit how far drawers can be extended or interlocks that prevent more than one drawer being opened at a time.
- Look for furniture with sturdy backing material which increases stability.
- Look for low-set furniture, or furniture with a sturdy, stable and broad base. It's less likely to tip over.
- Look for furniture that comes with safety information or equipment to anchor it to the wall. If it doesn't, you can buy an anchoring kit. Ask a staff member if you need help to choose the right product for your home.
- Plan your purchase. Think about where the furniture will go. Can you anchor your furniture to the wall or floor?



How to use the product safely?

Place furniture on a flat, even surface where possible. Furniture is more unstable when placed on an uneven or soft surface, such as carpet or a rug.

If you plan to place your furniture on carpet against a wall, check to make sure the carpet isn't bulging. Sometimes, carpet can become thicker and more uneven at the wall's edge, and this can make furniture less stable.

The best way to prevent furniture from tipping over is to secure it to the wall or floor.

If your furniture doesn't come with anchoring hardware you can buy what you need from a furniture retailer, hardware store or a specialty store for baby goods. You can also do this if you're securing furniture you've had for a while, or bought second-hand.

HOW CAN YOU MAINTAIN SEASONAL MAINTENANCE & MESSY SPACES FOR OUTDOOR FURNITURE?

When it comes to outdoor maintenance, consider the elements and the critters. To fully tackle all your yard, patio, and garden space, break it up into sections a make a to-do list.

We've curated a quick guide to help you quickly and efficiently whip your yard (and everything in it) into shape.

Maintain Blooming Gardens

To keep your outdoor space looking fresh, always have something blooming, recommends Jean Prominski, certified professional organizer at Seattle Sparkle. Regardless of whether you use containers or plant directly into the ground, pay attention to when the blooming season is over, especially for annuals. Make sure you snip any deadhead blooms, so you avoid having any dull or dead plants or flowers in your gardens.

Check the Sprinkler System

By taking care of your lawn, you're actually helping the entire backyard ecosystem, says Teri Valenzuela, a natural science manager at Sunday which is a custom lawn care product service.

Start by ensuring that the sprinkler system is working properly—no clogs or leaks. Once your system is good to go, keep an eye on the weather and set timers.

If it's not raining enough, water your lawn about three times a week for around 30 minutes each time.

This method is called "watering deeply and infrequently," Valenzuela says.

It helps the roots of the grass to grow deeper into the soil, and it keeps your lawn from getting too much or too little water, both of which damage your grass.

Know Your Grass

Different types of grass have different watering needs. "It's important to know the best length for your grass," Valenzuela says.

"This helps the grass stay healthy and grow strong roots," she says. "Cool-season grass should be kept at three to four inches, while warm-season grass is best at two to three inches."

Don't forget to sharpen mower blades at the beginning of each season, as it will minimize grass blade damage, which can stunt growth.

Tackle Standing Water

Pools of water can often attract bugs. Mosquitos, in particular, love to multiply in puddles, so make sure you get rid of standing water pronto and you'll be able to naturally prevent any pests. Clean gutters, check empty planters, and cut back overgrown plants.

Outsmart Weeds

You can deal with weeds by pulling them out or applying a treatment, but the trick to keeping weeds from coming back is to fill their space with better grass.

If your lawn isn't the best for turf grass, consider a tapestry lawn.

Deal With Mold

The best way to deal with this pesky growth is with bleach. Gazzo recommends a solution of one part bleach and 10 parts water solution paired with a stiff brush. You can apply this treatment to pavers and screens. Once you're done cleaning, rinse with plenty of water. Avoid the bleach solution on upholstery and other fabrics as it can discolor materials.

Invest in Outdoor Furniture Covers

Bad weather can be detrimental to outdoor furniture, but so can landscape debris.

"When a client decides to invest in their outdoor spaces, we are clear upfront that outdoor furniture has a significantly higher budget than furniture meant for indoors," says Ashley Macuga, the principal designer at Collected Interiors.

"The cost driver is the material and the construction, which must withstand the harshest of conditions—the blazing sun, drenching rain, and not to mention, snow and ice." Make sure the size of the cover fits the size of the furniture. If it is too small, it won't fit properly and can expose parts such as the legs of a table or sectional. If it is too large, it can bunch up and create spots for water to pool.

Employ Outdoor Storage

Create an outdoor organization system, so you lessen the risk of having stray chalk, balls, and mini shovels all around your outdoor space. Divide everything into categories and allocate a container for each. The sports equipment can go in one

bin while gardening supplies are in another. This way, you can find what you need when you or your kids are outside.

DECLUTTERING TIPS FOR ORGANISE YOUR FURNITURE IN HOME

Decluttering is a job that should be done regularly – but of course, most of us don't have the time to rationalize and reorganize our drawers, cluttered corners, and over-stuffed rooms that often. In fact, for many of us, it's a once-a-year, post-Christmas event.



Decluttering a whole house so you can implement your home organizing ideas can seem incredibly overwhelming, but if you approach the job a little at a time and invest in some excellent storage ideas, it immediately becomes more manageable.

Here, we bring you a range of decluttering tips from experts in the field, from getting into the best mindset for the task to tackling your decluttering on a room-by-room basis.

Decluttering isn't just about clearing your home of clutter, period. For many of us, decluttering can have a positive impact on mental health. A recent survey of homeowners showed that 44% of us experience 'mess-stress' at least weekly and

72% of 'naturally tidy' people have experienced stress from an untidy home over the pandemic*. Furthermore, a cluttered house will make your house look cheap.

Decluttering furniture in your home can create a sense of space, organization, and calm. Here are some tips to help you declutter effectively:

- 1. Assess Each Piece: Start by evaluating each piece of furniture in your home. Determine its functionality, condition, and whether it contributes positively to the space. If a piece serves no purpose or detracts from the overall aesthetic, consider removing it.
- 2. Prioritize Functionality: Keep furniture that serves a practical purpose and fits your lifestyle. Remove items that are rarely used or serve primarily as decorative pieces if they impede movement or create clutter.
- 3. Streamline Storage: Opt for furniture with built-in storage solutions, such as ottomans with hidden compartments or coffee tables with shelves. This allows you to maximize space and reduce visual clutter by keeping items neatly stored away.
- 4. Multi-Functional Pieces: Choose furniture that serves multiple purposes to minimize the number of items needed. For example, a sofa bed can double as a guest bed, or a dining table with foldable leaves can expand or contract based on your needs.
- 5. Edit Decorative Elements: Reduce the number of decorative items on display to create a cleaner, more cohesive look. Select a few meaningful pieces and rotate them periodically to keep your space feeling fresh without overwhelming the eye.
- 6. Create Zones: Define specific areas in your home for different activities, such as relaxation, work, or dining. Arrange furniture accordingly to delineate these zones and maintain clear pathways for movement.
- 7. Declutter Surfaces: Keep tabletops, shelves, and other surfaces free from excessive clutter. Limit the number of items displayed and use containers or trays to corral smaller items like keys, remotes, or accessories.
- 8. Consider Scale: Ensure that the scale of your furniture is appropriate for the size of your space. Avoid overcrowding by selecting pieces that complement the proportions of the room and leave adequate breathing room.

- 9. Regular Maintenance: Schedule regular decluttering sessions to prevent accumulation of unnecessary items. Donate or sell items that no longer serve a purpose, and resist the temptation to bring in new pieces without careful consideration.
- 10. Visual Lightness: Opt for furniture with clean lines and open designs to create a sense of visual lightness and spaciousness. Avoid bulky or oversized pieces that can overpower a room and make it feel smaller.

By following these tips and taking a thoughtful approach to decluttering your furniture, you can create a more inviting, functional, and harmonious living space.

HOW TO CLEAN WOOD FURNITURE TO MAKE IT LOOK NEW AGAIN?

Classic wood furniture never goes out of style and is often featured in farmhouse, vintage, and midcentury modern styles as family heirlooms and flea market finds. However, wood furniture can also be frustrating to clean. Over time, it tends to show dirt that can't be removed with a duster. And sometimes, even if you try to clean it, shiny streaks are left behind.



When it comes to wood furniture maintenance, there are a number of terms that get tossed around, such as dusting, cleaning, waxing, and polishing. While experts

have varying opinions on wood furniture care, the technique you use will depend on the finish.

What's the best way to dust wood furniture? Learn how to clean grime off, plus find care tips to keep decades-old pieces looking new.

When cleaning wood furnishings, never use all-purpose cleaning sprays, such as the kind used on kitchen tables, unless your furniture has a plastic coating. If you've used wood sprays and polishes in the past or suspect that furniture has been polished with them, be aware that these residues can interfere with refinishing and may need professional attention.

What You Need

- Olive oil
- Denatured alcohol
- Gum turpentine
- Strained lemon juice
- Soft cloth
- Clean cloth
- Soap (optional)
- Water (optional)
- Lint-free cloth (optional)

Step 1: Prepare the Cleaner

To revive grimy wood furniture, mix equal parts olive oil, denatured alcohol, gum turpentine, and strained lemon juice.

Step 2: Apply and Buff

Apply with a soft cloth and buff with a clean cloth.

Step 3: Remove Sticky Spots

Sticky spots may need to be treated with soap and water. To do this, dip a lint-free cloth in mild soap or detergent dissolved in water, wring the cloth nearly dry, and wipe the area. Rinse and immediately dry with a clean, soft cloth.

How to Clean Old Wood Furniture

If you have an older piece of fine wood furniture or a delicate family heirloom, you'll likely want to treat it a little more carefully. This three-step cleaning and care routine is the best way to clean old wood furniture over time.

What You Need

- Oil soap
- Cotton cloth
- steel wool
- Commercial finish restoring product
- Lint-free cheesecloth
- Orange or wax-based conditioner

Step 1: Clean Every Year

Clean furniture approximately every year with oil soap diluted according to product label instructions. Apply with a clean cotton cloth and work with the grain per the product directions.

Step 2: Restore and Restain

Restore as needed, especially from sun fading, using a commercial finish restoring product. Choose a shade closest to the wood stain you're working with and apply with #0000 steel wool to a small section at a time. Work with the grain of the wood and use light to moderate pressure. Immediately wipe clean with a lint-free cloth or cheesecloth.

Step 3: Condition Monthly

Use an orange oil or wax-based conditioner monthly to prevent drying and cracking.

HOW TO CLEAN UPHOLSTERY WITH STEAM CLEANER?

The beautiful upholstered furniture is always the epitome of any home décor in Sydney. Unfortunately, it takes a lot of wear and tear due to the accumulation of

dust, pet hair, grime, spills and splatters that can make your couch look dull, dirty and discoloured. Steam cleaning is one of the best methods to spruce up delicate upholstery furniture, such as couches, recliner chairs, and fabric sofa. A highly-efficient steam cleaner can do wonders by using high heat to kill dust mites and absorb grime, grease and stubborn stains without causing any damage to the fabrics. If you want to know how a steam cleaning tool can tackle embedded grime and stains, read the complete cleaning guide shared below.



Is A Steam Cleaner Safe For Upholstery?

Check the labels for the cleaning codes that indicate the recommended cleaning products and methods. Check these codes to ensure proper maintenance and care of your furniture. You can use a steam cleaner if your couch or sofa has a W or Wet or WS wet and solvent cleaning codes. Avoid using this method if you see S (solvent) and X (no cleaning) labels on your furniture. Doing so can damage its fabric and overall appearance. You can steam clean the following upholstered fabrics:

- Nylon Blends
- Polyester couch
- Microfiber sofa
- Cotton fabrics

• Velvet

Note: Do not use a steam cleaner on leather, suede material and silk surfaces. Here is a comprehensive guide on cleaning leather furniture without causing any damage.

What Type Of Furniture Stains Can A Steam Cleaner Tackle?

Before getting into the process, you should consider whether a steam cleaner is effective enough to handle all types of stains or not. Here are some of the common messes that can be removed by using a powerful cleaning tool:

- Juice Spills
- Food splatters and stains
- Marker stains
- Watercolour paints
- Coffee and tea stains
- Wine stains
- Pet stains
- Embedded dirt and grime.

The best part of steam cleaners is that they can also kill mould, mildew, bacteria, viruses and dust mites quickly. However, if you are still concerned about the entire rental premises, you can book the most reliable team for a quality end of lease cleaning Sydney and get it cleaned to get your bond back.

Step-By-Step Guide To Steam Cleaning Your Upholstery

Whether you have a recliner chair, a velvet couch or ottoman, you can use this guide and remove dust, stains and germs using the best cleaning method: 1. Vacuum Clean to Tackle Dry Messes Start the process by prepping your fabric couch or chair for steam cleaning. Use a HEPA-filtered vacuum machine to get rid of accumulated dust, dirt and grime. Use a brush attachment to get into nooks and crevices and fetch pet hair, allergens and pollens. Do not forget to vacuum your pillows and the back of your upholstery. Tip: You can also buy the best vacuum cleaner on Amazon that comes with a HEPA-filter and different brush attachments for carpet and upholstery cleaning. 2. Give Stubborn Stains a Head Start You

can use eco-friendly cleaning products to remove stubborn upholstery stain, such as oil splatters, wax stains, etc. Apply white vinegar, mild laundry detergent or liquid, and warm water solution over the stained area and let it rest for 5 minutes. It will break down the grime, making it easy to remove when you blot it with a clean microfiber cloth. Tip: You can also skip this step because steam cleaner can also help you remove spills and stains with ease. However, if you are preparing a rented property in NSW for a final rental inspection, you should pay more attention or hire seasoned end of lease cleaners Sydney to get your bond back without any dispute. 3. Prepare Your Steam Cleaning Equipment Fill the water and a few drops of liquid soap into the boiler of a steam cleaner as per the instructions. Now, attach the steam gun house and activate the safety lock. In the next step, plug in your steam cleaner and let the tool heap properly. Make sure you follow the instructions properly and don't overflow the boiler, as it could leak on your furniture. Use a revolving brush to tackle stubborn stains from your couch and recliner chair. 4. Start Steam Cleaning Your Couch Try to be strategic when sprucing up your upholstery with a steam cleaner. Once the tool generates heat, you can target small portions instead of the entire furniture. This will allow you to focus on every nook and cranny while minimising the chance of oversaturation, which could cause serious damage to the fabric. When running the steam wand over the surface, focus on fast strokes instead of slow ones. It can help lift cakedon grime from the fabric and fibres while preventing the water from seeping into the furniture. Pass the steam cleaner over the affected surface for stubborn stains until it breaks down. You can also apply dish soap or vinegar solution and blot the surface again to see sparkling results. A steam cleaner can help you tackle stains at end of lease cleaning and pass the inspection. Tip: Clean the cushions, sides and back of your upholstery using the same technique. 5. Let the Fabric Dry Completely Leave the furniture to dry completely to prevent mould infestation. Use a fan or simply open a window to let fresh air aerate the fabric. Once your upholstery is dry, you can vacuum clean it again to tackle leftover residue. If you are vacating the rented property soon, do proper research and hire professionals for a detailed end of lease cleaning in Sydney and impress your fussy landlord.



WRAPPING UP!!!

With the right steam cleaning techniques and methods, you can effectively and efficiently remove dirt, stains, grime, bad odours and germs from your upholstery. Make sure you choose the right tool with proper attachments and steam settings based on the type of your furniture fabric, and keep it looking fresh for years to come.

CONCLUSION

"Preserving the Beauty: A Complete Guide to Furniture Care and Maintenance" is a comprehensive resource that empowers individuals to protect and prolong the lifespan of their furniture. By following the practical advice offered in this guide, readers can effectively safeguard their furniture from common hazards such as sunlight, moisture, scratches, and wear. With an emphasis on proactive care, preventive measures, and occasional restoration, this guide equips readers with the tools and knowledge needed to maintain the aesthetic appeal and functionality of their furniture collections.

From cleaning techniques tailored to specific materials to specialized care instructions for delicate items, "Preserving the Beauty" covers a wide range of topics essential for furniture care and maintenance. The guide also emphasizes the importance of professional services, storage solutions, DIY repairs, and environmental considerations in promoting sustainable practices.



By embracing the practices outlined in this guide, readers can create living spaces that are not only beautiful but also enduring. With proper care and attention, furniture investments can withstand the test of time, enriching the home environment and enhancing the overall quality of life for years to come.

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