

Cleaning & Maintenance

Cleaning & maintenance advice and warnings to consider when it comes to our pieces

Wood

Most Common Causes of Damage to Wooden Pieces:

- Surfaces damaged by inappropriate use of abrasive cleaning products or substances that contain abrasives, ammonia, bleach, spirit or other aggressive chemicals; this includes D10 Sanitiser.
- Burns caused by very hot items or liquids– using mats will avoid this.
- Bleaching and warping caused by exposure to excessive sunlight
- Warping and splitting caused by significant changes in temperature (between 10°-25°C is generally best).
- Warping and splitting caused by excess humidity or changes in humidity.
- Tables being used outdoors that are not specified for outdoor use.

Wooden Furniture Care & Cleaning

We advise using soap (or a regular mild detergent) and warm water. If you wish to use liquid detergent, squirt it into a clean bucket full of warm water, and use the resulting mix. In place of a bucket, you can buy an empty trigger spray bottle and fill with warm soapy water.

This is especially the case with wood that has a lacquer on it; they must be cleaned with a product that does not damage the lacquer—any product with ammonia may be damaging.

Maintenance of Wood That Has Been Sealed

Seals require regular re-application – how regularly depends on how much it has been used and how often it has been cleaned/wiped. When the wood surface dulls, reapply the seal.

If a sealed surface is showing marks and scratches, use a fine sandpaper to remove these and then re-apply the seal to restore the original finish.

Maintenance of Wooden Furniture with Lacquer

Lacquer gives a strong layer of protection that can last for years. It usually simply requires cleaning with Relay Spray as above and standard furniture polish, which will disguise shallow scratching.

But if a lacquer is chipped, it can be difficult to repair.

For shallow chips, which do not penetrate through the lacquer, but may be unsightly, lightly sand the area with fine sandpaper, and then use furniture polish to shine the surface.

If the chip is more substantial, it can be touched-up, using a specialist product.

If the wood under the lacquer has been damaged or discoloured, maybe simply by exposure to air, sometimes the only option is to sand down the whole surface, a laborious process, then re-apply a finish similar to the original. This could well be more expensive than replacing the top.

Maintenance of Wood Specified for Outdoor Use (i.e. Teak)

Wooden outdoor furniture tends to weather to a silver-grey colour once it has been exposed to enough weather. Regular oiling will maintain this appearance and also protect the surface from drying and splintering and from stains.

To maintain the appearance of un-weathered timber requires very regular oiling and also probably scrubbing – even so the wood will tend to darken.

Why Can Lacquer Wear More Quickly on Some Tables Rather Than Others?

Table tops with a higher gloss level offer more protection. This is because the slightly different ingredients of a lacquer with a high gloss finish make it set harder than a lacquer with a matt finish.

A stained wooden table top with lacquer on is sometimes more vulnerable to damage than an unstained top. This is because the stain is absorbed into the wood, so when the lacquer is then applied on top of the stain, it is not absorbed so well, lessening its grip.

Lacquer on table tops now tends to be Acid Catalyst (AC); this has replaced Polyurethane (PU) as PU is a more toxic substance, more difficult and harmful to work with and unfriendly to the environment. AC is possibly slightly less hard-wearing than PU.

Damage to lacquer is also more obvious in some venues than others. Table tops are literally in the spotlight in well-lit restaurants, meaning damage will be more obvious than in, say, a dimly-lit pub or club.

Wood Finishes

All of our industrial wood coatings can be properly maintained in a good, clean condition by simply wiping at regular intervals with a soft chamois leather or cloth moistened with tepid water.

If the coating has become 'grubby' due to the accumulation of contaminants such as secretions from hands, minor spillages of household liquids such as tea, coffee and sauces, a small amount of mild detergent added to the water will ease this cleaning operation. After cleaning, any excess water should be wiped off immediately with a soft dry cloth to leave the coated surface completely dry.

Good working practice to avoid unnecessary damage to coated items includes the regular use of protective coasters, table mats and covers especially where hot utensils are used, and the quick removal of any liquids or other materials which may be spilled on the surface. If these materials are allowed to dwell on the surface damage may occur.

Liquid Sprays

It is not advisable to use wax-containing polishes as they can very quickly cause a buildup of wax residues on the lacquer surface which will become embedded with dust and dirt and result in a grubby appearance. These wax residues can also alter the degree of sheen of the lacquer surface i.e. matt finishes can become glossy.

Industrial Cleaners/Detergents

Logans Originals recommends the avoidance of proprietary branded industrial cleaners which may contain bleaching agents, abrasives and other chemical additives as it is not possible to test every combination of cleanser and lacquered surface. Some detergents can have a detrimental effect on the lacquered surface and cause visible and lasting damage.

Clear & Pigmented Acid-Catalysts

This type of coating are formulated for use on surfaces which require a high level of performance and resistance to chemical degradation, primarily from household chemicals such as tea, coffee, perfume, blackcurrant, red wine and nail varnish remover and physical damage such as scratches, impact-marking and adhesion. Typical areas of use would include office furniture, contract furniture and kitchens.

In areas where regular use and cleaning would be experienced, it is recommended that a final coat of clear AC lacquer with 2% of the original paint added to offset colour difference is applied over the pigmented AC finish to increase durability primarily as the strong colourants in household liquids such as red wine and blackcurrant can potentially stain a pigmented finish more readily if left to dwell.

Quartz/Stone/Engineered Stone/Granite

Daily Cleaning

The daily cleaning of stone top surfaces should be done using a damp cloth or paper towel and, if needed, a small quantity of neutral or slightly acidic pH detergent specifically designed for the daily cleaning of quartz-based engineered stone surfaces.

Spread the detergent on the surface and let it work for some seconds, rinse with a cloth or water, then carefully dry the surface.

Stone top surfaces containing mother of pearl chips shall not be cleaned with acidic detergents that will damage the mother of pearl.

Be careful in cleaning the delicate metallic pieces and other acid-sensitive materials that may be in the quartz/stone tops.

Cleaning Difficult Stains

Quartz/stone countertops are highly resistant to staining. However, cleaning difficult stains may require special action, especially if these stains are not removed promptly. Deep clean the surface by spraying a neutral or slightly acidic pH detergent specifically designed for deep cleaning quartz-based engineered stone countertops, and consistently spread it with a non-abrasive cloth. Allow the detergent to work for 5 minutes, then thoroughly rinse with water until the detergent has been completely removed. Remove the excess water with a cloth and dry.

Should the stain not be completely removed, repeat the whole process.

Preventing Damages Caused by Thermal Shock or Impact

Quartz/stone surfaces are heat resistant and can withstand a limited exposure to pots, pans or dishes at normal cooking temperature without visible damages.

Although quartz surfaces show higher heat resistance than any other stone countertop, they can be damaged by sudden and extreme thermal shocks. We recommend the use of trivets to avoid continued exposure of quartz surfaces to sources of heat.

Quartz/stone surfaces are highly scratch resistant, but are not scratch proof. We recommend the use of cutting boards when cutting and preparing food.

Chemicals to be Avoided

- Avoid exposing quartz/stone to chemicals and solvents, especially paint removers, that might contain trichloroethane and methylene chloride. Keep solvents, acetone, alcohol, thinners, detergents containing bleach, laundry bluing, highly alkaline liquids such as bleach, caustic soda or oven cleaners, acids, oily soaps, de-scalers, markers or ink, abrasive and micro-abrasive detergents away from the surface.
- Avoid using any detergent not specifically designed for quartz/stone surface, especially acidic and highly alkaline determents. Finally, avoid using highly abrasive sponges that may scratch the surface.

Should any of the above listed liquids drip on the stone top surface, remove it immediately and thoroughly rinse with water.

Even though an occasional exposure to alkaline products does not damage quartz/stone surfaces, highly alkaline detergents (high pH) are not recommended for daily cleaning.

The use of highly alkaline detergents may damage the surface of the material.

It is recommended to use only a neutral silicone to install the countertop.

Powder-Coated Surfaces

Regular, thorough cleaning of powder-coated surfaces is necessary in order to preserve the decorative appearance of the surface, as well as to reduce corrosion strain.

Cleaning-Compatible Component Design

Cleaning-compatible component design has a critical influence on the effectiveness of cleaning components during their service life. The constructional design and geometry of a component largely determine its likely degree of soiling, as well as the future soiling behaviour caused by e.g. upright surfaces, joints and dirt run-off routes that channel concentrated flows of soiling across visually exposed surfaces. Failings in the constructional design can often not be compensated by a powder-coated surface, not even in conjunction with the right cleaning techniques.

Regular Cleaning

If the component is not cleaned during its service life, or is cleaned only irregularly or improperly, this accelerates the soiling process. Depending on the influencing conditions, this in turn may lead to irreparable surface defects (e.g. corrosion, chalking, etc.) and even to a complete loss of decorative appearance. The component may thus only be expected to retain its value and functionality if cleaned regularly and often over the course of its service life, as necessitated by the soiling (i.e. depending on the environmental conditions and the location). The coating should be cleaned at least every three months in industrial or marine environments, and at least every six months in rural areas.

Cleaning of Powder Coated Surfaces

- as the case may be, only clean water, with slight additives of neutral washing agents (pH 7), is to be used with the aid of soft, non-abrasive cloths, rags or industrial cotton. Strong rubbing is not to be undertaken
- the removal of greasy, oily or sooty substances can take place with the use of white spirit free of aromatic compounds or isopropyl alcohol (IPA). Residues of adhesives, silicone cartouche or adhesive tapes, etc., can also be removed in this way
- use no solvents or similar, containing ester, ketones, polyhydric alcohol, aromatics, ethylene glycol or halogenated hydrocarbon

- joint sealants and other aids such as glazing aids, lubricant agents, drilling and cutting lubricants etc., which come into contact with coated surfaces must be pH-neutral and free of paint damaging substances; they must first be subjected to a suitability test
- due to the danger of changes in a colour tone or effect, a test for suitability is to be undertaken for metallic coatings
- use no scratching, abrasive agents
- use no strong acids, alkaline detergents, nor introvers
- use no detergents of unknown compositions
- avoid using Suma BAC D10®:
 - Suma BAC D10® (or any similar product) is not suitable for the cleaning of powder coated surfaces based on the high alkalinity, with a pH of approximately 11 in its undiluted form. One of the active ingredients in Suma BAC D10®, didecyl dimethylammonium chloride (DDAC), was found to be incompatible with many paints and coatings. Furniture manufacturers also warn against the use of BAC D10 type sanitizers on lacquer finished wooden furniture, as it softens the lacquer, making it more prone to peeling, discolouration, and getting marked. Similarly, it would be advised to avoid using Suma BAC D10® on surfaces coated with thermosetting powder coatings.
- detergents must not be used at temperatures higher than a maximum of 25°C
- the surface temperature must not exceed 25°C during cleaning
- the maximum exposure period of these detergents must not exceed one hour: when necessary, the entire cleaning process can be repeated after at least 24 hours
- rinsing with clean cold water is to take place immediately after every cleaning process
- Fine-textured effects: Use fibre-free cloths — moderate mechanical support may be given to the cleaning operation using a soft, non-surface-damaging brush

Certified Facade Cleaning

Proper maintenance and regular servicing of the coated surfaces are both prerequisites for the claims of any guarantee and require regular cleaning at least once each year. For severe environmental pollution, for example in regions with increased salt contamination and/or chemical exhausts, meaning in a direct area of influence or within the vicinity of an industrial or chemical enterprise, or in the immediate vicinity of a sea coast or within a defined chemical/

radioactive precipitation zone, the building must be cleaned more often. In this way possible damage can be reduced subject to timely recognition and remedied on time by suitable measures. If a coated component is soiled during transport, through storage or assembly, the cleaning of this component must take place immediately with clear, cold or lukewarm water. Neutral or a weak alkaline detergent can be used against severe soiling. The prerequisite for proper care of the coated construction is that the construction is regularly cleaned according to these guidelines.

Further instructions for maintenance and cleaning are available from, among others:

- **ASFA** – Architectural Aluminium Surface Finishing Guide
- **SABS** – SANS 10322 Surface Finishing of Architectural Aluminium