

Care & Maintenance Guide

Your Whisperwood piece is made to be lived with and enjoyed for many years. Proper care will help preserve the beauty, finish, and structural integrity of the furniture.

Because solid wood is a natural material, some change over time is not only expected but part of owning handcrafted furniture.

1. Environmental Conditions

Solid wood continuously responds to the environment around it.

For indoor furniture, we recommend maintaining a relatively stable indoor environment, ideally with:

- Temperature between approximately **60°F and 80°F**; and
- Relative humidity between approximately **35% and 55%**.

Short-term fluctuations are generally not a concern. Prolonged exposure to very dry or very humid conditions can cause excessive movement, cracking, warping, joint stress, or finish problems.

Furniture should not be placed directly next to radiators, wood stoves, fireplaces, heating vents, or other significant sources of heat.

2. Sunlight

Direct sunlight can gradually change the color of wood and finishes.

Some species become darker or warmer in color with exposure to light, while others may become lighter.

This is a natural aging process and is not considered a defect.

Where practical, avoid prolonged direct sunlight and periodically reposition objects placed on the furniture surface to help minimize uneven color changes.

3. Cleaning

For routine cleaning:

1. Remove dust with a soft, dry cloth.

2. For spills or heavier cleaning, use a lightly dampened soft cloth.
3. Dry the surface promptly.

Do not saturate the wood or allow standing water to remain on the surface.

Unless specifically recommended for your particular piece, avoid:

- Bleach;
- Ammonia-based cleaners;
- Abrasive cleaners;
- Furniture polishes containing silicone;
- Strong solvents;
- Alcohol-based cleaners;
- Abrasive pads or scrubbers.

When in doubt, contact Whisperwood before using a new cleaning product.

4. Spills

Clean spills promptly.

Although a properly applied finish provides protection, no furniture finish makes wood completely impervious to liquids.

Do not allow standing water, alcohol, oils, or other liquids to remain on the surface for extended periods.

5. Heat

Do not place hot cookware, heated appliances, or other extremely hot objects directly on finished surfaces unless the product was specifically designed for that purpose.

Use trivets, pads, or other appropriate protection.

6. Scratches and Wear

Furniture will naturally acquire small marks and changes in appearance through normal use.

Use appropriate protective pads beneath objects that may scratch the surface.

Avoid dragging heavy or sharp objects across finished surfaces.

7. Furniture Movement

Lift furniture when moving it rather than dragging it across the floor whenever possible.

Large pieces should be moved by an adequate number of people using appropriate lifting techniques.

Do not lift furniture by doors, drawers, hardware, or other components not designed to support the weight of the piece.

8. Wood Movement and Seasonal Changes

Solid wood expands and contracts as environmental humidity changes.

You may notice:

- Slight changes in dimensions;
- Small seasonal gaps;
- Changes in the alignment of components;
- Minor surface checking;
- Changes in the fit of doors or drawers.

These changes are normal characteristics of solid wood construction.

Whisperwood designs furniture with wood movement in mind and uses appropriate construction methods to accommodate normal movement.

9. Repairs and Modifications

Do not drill, cut, refinish, alter, or structurally modify a Whisperwood piece without first consulting Whisperwood.

Unauthorized modifications may void applicable warranty coverage.

10. Long-Term Care

The appropriate long-term maintenance depends on the finish used on your particular piece.

If your furniture requires periodic maintenance, Whisperwood will provide specific instructions for that finish.

When maintenance or refinishing is required, Whisperwood may be available to perform the work or recommend an appropriate professional.

11. Questions

If you are uncertain how to clean, move, repair, or care for your piece, please contact Whisperwood (help.WhisperWood@icloud.com) before attempting the repair or treatment.

Natural Characteristics of Solid Wood

An Important Note About Handcrafted Furniture

Every piece of furniture made by Whisperwood begins with a material that is fundamentally different from manufactured sheet goods: **real wood**.

No two boards are identical, and no two pieces of furniture will ever have exactly the same appearance.

The characteristics described below are part of what makes solid-wood furniture unique.

Grain Variation

Grain direction, figure, cathedral patterns, rays, and other features will vary from board to board.

The appearance of a finished piece may therefore differ from photographs, renderings, or previously completed examples.

Color Variation

Even boards from the same tree may vary substantially in color.

Wood color may also change with exposure to light and age.

Finish can enhance or alter these differences.

Knots and Natural Features

Depending on the design and material selected, a piece may contain knots, mineral streaks, small voids, figure, spalting, or other natural characteristics.

When these features are intentionally incorporated into a design, they are considered part of the character of the piece rather than defects.

Sapwood and Heartwood

Some species naturally contain significant differences between sapwood and heartwood.

These differences may be visible in the finished furniture and may be intentionally incorporated into the design.

Seasonal Movement

Wood expands and contracts in response to changes in moisture content.

A piece that is perfectly fitted when delivered may exhibit small changes as seasons change.

This is a normal characteristic of solid wood.

Checking and Small Cracks

Some species are more prone to developing small checks or cracks as they respond to changes in humidity.

Small, non-structural checks may occur even when furniture has been properly designed and constructed.

Whisperwood evaluates such changes based on their size, location, cause, and effect on the structural integrity and intended function of the piece.

Handmade Variation

Handcrafted furniture is not manufactured to the visual uniformity of mass-produced products.

Small variations in dimensions, joinery, finish, and surface appearance may occur as a natural consequence of individual craftsmanship.

These variations are part of the character of handmade work.

Photographs and Color Representation

Photographs are intended to provide a representation of a piece but cannot perfectly reproduce the color, depth, texture, or three-dimensional appearance of actual wood.

Screen settings, lighting, photography, and finishing conditions can all affect perceived color.

Your Piece Will Change

One of the characteristics of fine solid-wood furniture is that it does not remain visually static.

Wood may become richer or lighter in color, develop additional character, and show evidence of years of use.

These changes are part of the life of the furniture and, in many cases, are what make a well-used piece increasingly distinctive.

We believe these characteristics are not something to hide—they are part of why handcrafted furniture is worth owning.