

We at Vermont Handcrafted Furniture / Vermont Furniture Designs take great pride in our furniture and consequently we take great care in preparing it for your home. Our finish is a technically updated form of the age-old hand rubbed oil finish that has been used by fine furniture craftspeople for centuries.

The base for such a finish is an extremely detailed sanding process. We sand every part of our furniture and resand after assembly to remove nicks and clamp marks. Every piece is put through multiple machine sanding processes, but the ultimate finish is determined by the final hand sanding. Since the silky feel of an oil finish is actually determined by the degree of sanding on the wood, we spend a great deal of time on this process.

We hope that you enjoy your fine hardwood furniture. It has been crafted to last many lifetimes.

Visit our showroom at:
4 Tigan Street, Winooski, Vermont
Monday – Saturday, 10AM – 4PM

802-655-6568

WWW.VERMONTFURNITUREDESIGNS.COM



FURNITURE CARE

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Caring for your new furniture

We suggest that you do not use furniture polish, dusting sprays that include a polish, or any wax. While some waxes are compatible with our finish, many will have to be stripped before more oil can be applied.

For our black cherry and black walnut pieces, we recommend a commercial product that is almost identical to what we use in the factory - WATCO® Danish oil in the color natural. For our maple pieces, we recommend tung oil. These can be used with WATCO® finishing wax to add an extra layer of protection. These products are available at many locations including Home Depot, Lowe's, and online retailers.

Our recommendation is that your furniture be re-oiled shortly after it is placed in your home. The oil should be applied liberally with a rag, taking care not to allow drips on carpets or unfinished wood floors. During this first re-oiling, use very fine (0000) steel wool to remove any oil bleed-back from the pores that may have dried on the surface of the furniture. This bleed-back and any dust that has dried on the finish will show up as rough spots on the furniture. Use the steel wool, lightly and with the grain, while the furniture is still covered with wet oil. Then carefully rub the furniture dry. Do not allow the oil to dry on the surface of the furniture as it may become sticky.

Additional coats of oil can be applied as necessary. Traditionally, coats are applied regularly for the first few months and once a year after that. The rich patina of cherry is enhanced by frequent oiling, and several coats build up a protective layer and frequent reoiling results in a deeper, richer, color.

Repairs are much simpler with an oil finish than with hard finishes, which need to be entirely

stripped and reapplied. Simply remove the damage by using 0000 steel wool and rubbing with the grain. If that does not succeed, use a very fine (220 grit or finer) sandpaper with a flat wood block behind it.

Once the blemish is removed, simply reapply the oil as many times as you feel is needed to bring the area to the same level as the rest of the furniture. It will take a while for the color of the sanded area to darken to the same level as the unsanded sections.

NOTE: All rags that have come into contact with this type of oil must be thoroughly wet and stored under water until disposed of outside your home. The oil-soaked rags are a serious fire hazard.

Notes and Warnings

1. Variations. Our quality control allows blemishes, knots, and less than perfect color in places which are not exposed to view after assembly. These do not affect the soundness or beauty of the finished piece of furniture. There are also variations in the color and darkening of individual pieces of wood. We make every effort to match grain and color within each piece of furniture. However, we cannot guarantee they will match perfectly as they age.

2. Sunlight and cherry. Extra attention must be paid to the horizontal surfaces of cherry furniture. The darkening of the wood to the deep, rich patina we all cherish is an oxidation process, catalyzed by sunlight. For this reason, objects placed on the surfaces of new cherry furniture will leave a shadow of light when they are removed. The surface under them, protected from both air and sunlight, will darken much more slowly than the surrounding area. ***Do not leave objects on the flat surfaces of new cherry furniture for prolonged periods of time.*** To correct a shadow, simply leave the spot uncovered and the color will "catch up" to the darker surroundings. After three months or so, you may place objects as you please.

3. Humidity. The normal tendency of wood is to move with changes of heat and humidity. Especially with an oil finish, which does not seal the wood, the pores breathe and try to take on the humidity of the surrounding air. This means the wood will dry in winter (heated air is much drier) and contract; conversely it will take on moisture and swell in the summer months. We have designed the furniture to allow for these changes, and you will not find sticky drawers, or separating joints.

There are two circumstances to be aware of, however. Sudden changes in humidity, as would be caused by placing your furniture near a direct heat source, placing a hot pot on it, or storing it in an unheated area, may cause problems. In particular, laminated parts (such as dresser or table tops) may split or warp. We do not warranty against this type of abuse.

These changes in humidity and movement in the wood become especially severe in large panels, such as table tops. They are also more severe near the end grain of the wood, since those are the pore openings through which the moisture moves. On an extension table top, for example, the ends of the panels will expand more than the center in the summer and contract more in the winter. This results in minor separations between the leaves of the table as the seasons change. You may find that there is a small gap in the joints near the middle of the table during the summer (as the edges expand more) and near the edges of the table during the winter (as the edges contract more). This is not a defect—it is uncontrollable in a natural-finished product like ours. "Fixing" the problem one season by straightening the edges will only result in a worse problem during the next season. Please understand the limitations of wood and enjoy the process as it breathes along with you.