

SEALING / FINISHING TEAK WOOD

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BELOW IS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IF YOU DECIDE TO TREAT OR SEAL YOUR FURNITURE

Applying a sealer or any type of finish to teak is not required to protect teak wood. Henry Hall Designs recommends that teak wood remain unfinished. This is also the preferred choice of most of our clients because it requires so little maintenance. Unless otherwise specified in writing in the customer order, Henry Hall Designs teak furniture is delivered unfinished.

If you are simply looking to keep your furniture as clean as possible, consider using breathable Contact Henry Hall Designs or companies such as KoverRoos (800-706-5225 or www.koverroos.com) to ask more about furniture covers.

The only reasons to finish teak wood are to preserve or enhance the original color of the wood. Also, some products have added stain resistance, which may be helpful depending on your level of use. Henry Hall Designs recommends that a sealer or finish be applied by a professional who can provide references and examples of past projects. If you choose to do the job on your own, while we are happy to provide additional information to our clients about cleaning and sealing teak, please note that the below information does not hold

Henry Hall Designs liable for any damage that occurs to the furniture during a finishing treatment. Any treatment that is applied by anyone other than Henry Hall Designs staff is at the sole risk of the client, and they will be responsible for any related costs due to replacement, repair, or transportation.

Before getting started:

There are literally hundreds of products on the market to finish wood. What is most important is to ensure that the product you are using is appropriate for *teak wood*. Also keep in mind that once you begin applying a finish to a wood, there is never a “guaranteed” color that is produced from the combination – always test first in an unseen area. Before applying, be sure the furniture is thoroughly cleaned and area is dust free and dry, and that you will not be dripping onto another surface (i.e. a hardwood deck).

EXTERIOR USE: TEAK SEALER

If you decide to maintain the original color of the wood, you should select an outdoor “teak sealer”. The purpose of using a sealer versus any other product is to coat the wood with ingredients such as mildewcide, pigments, UV inhibitors, and moisture protection in order to keep a “honey” color outdoors. These ingredients should be a part of any good teak sealer, and should have a water-like viscosity and should not contain silicone, varnish, polymers, or exotic oils. Note: teak wood has a naturally high oil content and over time, mildew can feed upon that oil. Even though recommended sealer products contain mildewcide, sealer cannot prevent some mildew build up when items are left on the surface of the wood (potted plants, etc.), or if there is too little ventilation overall, or if the finish is starting to wear off. If you choose to seal your teak, the best source for information on teak sealers is a marine store (as teak is so often used on boats), or some hardware stores may also be able to offer different products.

For an upcharge (please inquire for rates), Henry Hall Designs can apply a initial “Natural” sealing treatment to your furniture before it ships.

When specified, we use Semco® Natural (clear) Teak Sealer. This product does not close the grain of the wood – water vapor can still pass through. If you choose to have us seal your furniture for its initial treatment, it is important to realize that the furniture will need to be cleaned and re-coated on a periodic basis, and that this will be an ongoing responsibility of the client themselves. We do not offer a warranty on the length of time that the sealer will last. Depending on weather in your region, seasonal re-coating to keep the teak properly sealed ranges anywhere from every 6 to 12 months (6 to 9 months is average). One can test the furniture to see if it needs re-coating by dashing water on the surface – if the water beads up, then the sealer is still working and does not need re-coating. A harsh environment or higher usage may shorten the intervals of maintenance required. Avoid applying sealer too often as the finish will build up and mask the grain of the wood.

If a change in the wood color is desired, Semco® sealer is manufactured in the shades of Cleartone (best used in combination with another shade), Honeytone, Goldtone and Classic Brown. However, Henry Hall Designs only offers the Natural finish. If you would prefer another shade of sealer, samples and orders should be requested by the client directly to Semco®, and applied by the client themselves.

Re-sealing at home:

If you decide not to have a professional re-seal your teak furniture, here is some cleaning and sealing advice from the warehouse staff at Henry Hall Designs:

- Clean the furniture with Semco® Two Part Teak Cleaner and let dry completely for 3

days. This is to avoid "patches" of teak sealer from building in some areas.

- Sand down with medium 120 grit paper.
- Apply a coat of Semco® Teak Sealer and let dry two hours. Apply a second coat.

Semco® advises when sealing/re-sealing furniture to first wash the furniture using a mild detergent, rinsing, then allowing the wood to completely dry. Apply a coat of the Sealer using foam brushes, and allow to dry in between if applying two coats. For complete instructions on applying Semco® Teak Sealer, please contact Semco® 1-800-662-0223 or www.semco-teakproducts.com for an information sheet.

Additional "table top" food /drink stain resistance:

Stains – such as hot oil from barbecued meats or red wine – can seep into the wood. To resist stains from forming in the first place, you may choose to apply two coats of Semco® Clear Coat Sealer on the table top (ONLY on table tops.) This would be applied in addition to Natural Semco® Teak Sealer which has already been applied to the entire table. This may be especially useful for tables used in the food service industry or for "high traffic" residential tables. This process will impart a rich patina (the more coats applied, the greater the shine) and will slightly darken the shade of the table top. To reapply Clear Coat, you must follow the steps of cleaning and sanding down the furniture as recommended above.

INTERIOR USE: TEAK OIL

If the furniture is only being used indoors, there is much more flexibility in terms of product to finish the wood, since clearly there are fewer concerns about how temperature and weather will affect the wood. Furniture *exclusively used indoors* can be finished with teak oil.

Oils usually consist of linseed or tung oil mixed with mineral spirits. Henry Hall Designs does not recommend teak oil for exterior use, because mildew and mold are already attracted to the natural oils found in teak wood – adding additional oil on top of that will result in more regular cleaning and re-application of the finish. Also, applying oil over weathered or soiled furniture will result in an unsightly blackening of the color.

Oiling furniture to be used indoors can add an extra resistance (and mask) to stains that may occur. Ensure the oil you use is appropriate for teak wood and maintain as outlined with any product you choose. On average, products specify a yearly re-coating. While we do not recommend any one product over the other, some teak oils to consider are made by Liberon, Briwax, Starbrite, to name a few.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON OTHER FINISHES

It is important to know that terms such as "varnish" have become a common word referring to a general sealer – and vice-versa – which can certainly confuse the task of selecting a finish! In fact, some companies actually produce "teak oil" specific for *exterior* use – these products are blended oils which include weather resistant agents.

In the end, the most important task in selecting a finish is to enquire directly with the manufacturer of any product you choose, to ensure it is suitable for your teak, your usage, and your environment.

Below are some general notes about other wood finishing products. As you will see, most finishes are not stable on teak wood because they interfere with the high level of oil content already in the wood:

LACQUER: Provides a clear finish and has quick drying times. Is commonly used in the industrial industry and mass production processes. Not recommended for teak furniture.

WAX: Provides an additional layer of protection on oiled wood, although on its own does not provide a great deal of stain resistance. Sometimes used on teak indoors, after oiling.

VARNISH: Provides a sheen to wood, ranging from matt to gloss. Varnish comes in two basic categories, oil based (usually for commercial use) and water based (best for interior use). Not generally recommended for teak furniture.

POLYURETHANE/ URETHANE/ VERATHANE: Are derivatives of varnish and are not suited to use on everyday items such as chairs – more likely used on hardwood floors, for example. Provides a hard, clear, acrylic finish for indoor use. Mostly available in satin or glossy finishes. Not generally recommended for teak furniture.

PAINT: Not recommended for teak furniture. Once teak oils hit the surface, it will cause the paint to peel and will require a major job of stripping the wood.

SHELLAC: A durable finish but susceptible to alcohol and water damage and is highly toxic. Not recommended for teak furniture.

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