

# TEAK WOOD

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Teak is a durable hardwood and by far the most desirable wood for outdoor use because of its combined value of being both strong, yet light enough in weight for practical outdoor use. Teak has a naturally high oil content which creates a built-in resistance to the elements so that it is rot resistant, pest resistant and will not splinter. As such, teak does not need to be sealed or treated to protect the wood. There is a lot of teak on the outdoor furniture market, but little of it is comparable to the wood used by Henry Hall Designs. Our wood is mature, high quality, and kiln-dried, so that oil content and fiber strength are contained at its peak. Combined with meticulous construction techniques, our furniture should provide a lifetime of use with minimal maintenance.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY - THE SOURCE OF OUR WOOD

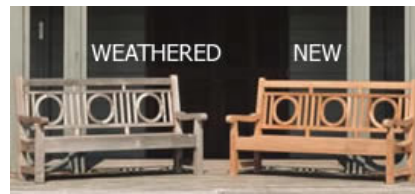
Henry Hall Designs is committed to only using teak harvested from a sustainable source. In the construction of our products, each part of the tree

is used; even small wood pieces are cut into dowels for joinery pieces.

Our wood suppliers purchase from different locations worldwide, but all sources adhere to managed sustainable programs.

The teak that we use from **plantation sources** are managed so that harvesting and replanting is controlled. One wood supplier that we purchase from manages Forestry Stewardship Council certified plantations in Costa Rica. Manufacturing for the Mariposa and Chelsea Eccentrics collections are done with plantation-grown wood from these plantation sources and some other plantation sources. Another supplier (for the Monolith Bench, Fusion, Pure, and Eclipse) has certification from Perum Perhutani endorsing that the wood is strictly plantation grown. Perum Perhutani is the government agency which controls all legal plantations in Indonesia.

## WEATHERING



Left outdoors, teak will gracefully turn to silver patina to harmonize with its surroundings. Sunlight oxidizes the natural oils in teak wood, which turn the surface to a silvery gray color. The teak may initially weather unevenly, but it will eventually silver uniformly in 2 months to a year – it very much depends on its exposure to sunlight.

Every piece of teak is unique and will vary in tone when new. In general, most pieces have a uniform "honey" color, but sometimes this color can range from slightly lighter to slightly darker, and the appearance of the wood grain may be more visible, or barely visible at all. We carefully inspect our finished furniture to see that the "best looking" parts of the wood are the exposed parts.

Our wood undergoes an intense kiln drying process to strengthen it for long-lasting use. Even after the wood's drying process, all wood continues to undergo a "breathing" process. As part of the natural expansion and contraction of the wood when new, the wood may feel slightly rough, as the wood grain has expanded. This can be sanded out using fine sandpaper, or left to smooth out naturally. As the wood weathers, slight "checking" (fine cracks) may appear where the wood is cut across the grain. This is merely the wood "breathing" with changes in temperature and the checking will settle down over time. This does not affect the structure or the strength of the furniture. Also at the beginning, in damp weather, some wood may appear to develop "tea-colored" streaks or stains. This is simply another natural process: the kiln-drying (especially for very thick pieces of wood) cannot remove all moisture from the wood, and the moisture in the wood is reacting to damp conditions outdoors. On table tops, this can sometimes appear as small puddles – if not wiped away, it can leave a stain. This is also why it is highly recommended not to leave cushions on furniture during these first few months. However, over time, any streaks or marks will fade into the overall silver tone of the wood.

If you prefer to cover your furniture to limit its exposure to sunlight, or to protect cushions from becoming wet, please ensure that your cover is appropriate for teak wood. It is also advisable to

get covers for your furniture if it is used near a heavy traffic area where diesel smoke can settle on the furniture: these black deposits can leave the appearance of mildew. Contact Henry Hall Designs: 800.767.7738 / info@henryhalldesigns.com or companies such as KoverRoos (800-706-5225 or www.koverroos.com) to find out more about furniture covers. Do not cover the furniture with plastic or a tarp – the cover should be made of material which will allow vapor to pass through.

***The wood has weathered, but you want to restore the original honey color of the wood:***

Teak wood is very forgiving – the oxidation level is just on the surface layer, so you can restore the original color (or near original color) of the wood should you choose, even after it has weathered. To restore the original color, see the steps to "Deep Cleaning Persistent Stains" listed below.

## **CLEANING & MAINTENANCE**

***When it first arrives:***

When the furniture is first delivered, be sure to wipe off any "teak dust" on the furniture using a damp cloth, otherwise it can leave marks on clothes. Also be sure to wipe down the furniture before first putting the cushions down.

Also remember to remove cushions from furniture as often as possible during the first three months outdoors. Natural oils in the wood react with the surface layer and may stain fabrics. See "Cushions" brochure for more.

***Regular maintenance:***

Unfinished teak is very simple to maintain, but a regular cleaning is crucial every 6 to 12 months.

The wood can produce black streaks, due to mold and mildew feeding upon the natural oil. To clean, scrub with a soft brush and natural soap (such as liquid dish detergent). It is not advised to use steel wool on teak, as small steel particles can become embedded in the wood – a soft bristled brush or ScotchBrite® pads are a better choice. Rinse with fresh water. Regularly "watering" the teak wood with fresh water is also encouraged, to promote uniformity during the weathering process.

***Stains:***

Some stains can be removed with diluted bleach mixture with water, in a 1:4 mix. Scrub with a soft brush and rinse with fresh water.

Alternatively, sand down the stained spot with a medium 120 grit (or finer) sandpaper until it is no longer visible. However, note that any "spot" cleaning will always change the color of area being worked on, as such, the wood surface will not look uniform in color. However, thanks to teakwood's natural oil content, after time (a month or more), the wood color will once again even out. Also remember to test any cleaning in a small, unseen area before tackling the entire job.

*Further note:* If you feel that your table top is getting (or will get) too exposed to stains, there are some products on the market to apply to table tops to help prevent this. We recommend Semco® Clear Coat. However you must first treat the wood with a teak sealer before applying this additional Clear Coat treatment. See the "Sealing/ Finishing Teak Wood" brochure for more information on this.

***Deep cleaning persistent stains:***

If you have intense stains (i.e. some oil stains can run very deep), or completely want to restore the teak's original color, this can be done using a teak

cleaner – a product available in marine or hardware stores.

It might also be a good idea to source out a local teak restoration company to do the work for you. Since some teak cleanings can be a big project, many companies just make their business by cleaning and restoring teak.

Teak cleaners at the store generally come in one-part and two-part cleaners. One-part cleaners usually use a mild chemical to clean the wood. Two-part cleaners typically consist of firstly an acid, then a neutralizer. Due to the chemical content of any teak cleaner, ensure care is taken to protect yourself and your environment. It is not recommended to repeat this process often, as it will eventually leave the wood feeling rough, due to teak cleaners opening up of the pores of the wood to "flush" out the weathered layer. Clearly follow the directions given on the Teak Cleaner product you have chosen.

Henry Hall Designs uses Semco® Two-part Teak Cleaner when required. The furniture is first sanded using medium grit (100 - 120 grit) sandpaper, then rinsed and allowed to dry. Semco® advises when using its product to first wet the furniture, use a scrub brush to apply Part 1 in one small area at a time, rinse and repeat as often as needed if there are stubborn stains, then apply Part 2 in each area with separate brush, and finally rinse thoroughly. For complete instructions on applying Semco® Teak Cleaner, please contact: 1-800-662-0223 or www.semco-teakproducts.com.

## **WARRANTY**

We warrant our teak wood sold to the original owner to be free from defects in material and construction for 75 years of normal residential use.

This warranty does not apply to damage resulting from improper maintenance, misuse, negligence, or normal wear.

FDI MEMBER FROM JUNE 2002



***Exception to general warranty:***

**Monolith Bench:** The limited edition bench is constructed using teak wood and is held together by stainless steel bars embedded in the wood slats, and finished by applying a top layer of adhesive SikaFlex® between the slats. SikaFlex® is a product developed for marine and outdoor use, and can be sanded, sealed, exposed to temperature extremes, and intense sunlight. SikaFlex® is renowned (especially in ship building) for its ability not to crack or separate. However, given the unknown weather conditions and general treatment each bench will be subject to, we limit the warranty of the construction and materials of the Monolith Bench for 5 years of normal residential use.

**Massimo Table:** This table consists of stainless steel legs and a teak wood table top. The Massimo's table top is constructed of large sections of solid wood. Changes in air humidity may cause small separations to form between the slats. This is a part of the natural character of the wood. As such, separations between the wood slats up to ¼" are *not covered* under warranty for this table top.

The Massimo table legs are (as of 2008) only available in electropolished finish. Regular cleaning (see "Stainless Steel frames" brochure) must be maintained.

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