

# Care Guidelines

Thank you for allowing Martin's Furniture, LLC to become a part of your family's story. Your furniture will bring beauty and comfort to your home and will become a treasured heirloom. We're confident that with proper care, your furniture will provide a lifetime of service. Please read our recommendations below for the Care of your fine furniture. It is a lot easier than you may think.

## Care for the First few Months and the years to come

Our premium quality Top Coat finish used to protect all the furniture we create, regardless if it is painted or stained, requires 30 - 60 days to achieve full cure. During this period, your furniture will need the most tender loving care. Temperature, moisture, sharp and rough objects will adversely affect your furniture. Play defense: use placemats under heavy items such as serving bowls or dinner plates. Coasters under drinking glasses and cups. Use trivets for hot serving items (pots & pans). Remind yourself, "If it's too hot to hold in your hand, it's too hot to place on the furniture". Be careful of using your furniture as a work surface. Place a protective pad under what you are working on. These surfaces could be permanently dented or scratched if someone is pressing too hard with a pen or pencil.

## Control the Environment

Solid wood is a natural product; therefore, it will "respond" to changes in temperature and humidity by expanding and contracting. Maintaining an indoor temperature of 60 to 80 degrees F and a relative humidity level of 30 to 40 percent, will help reduce these changes in the wood. Avoid placing your furniture in areas of direct sunlight and keep them away from sources of heating and cooling. Solid wood naturally changes color over time under normal lighting conditions. The lighter finishes are more vulnerable to this change. Move décor items around periodically so no silhouettes appear on the surface. Avoid storing furniture in a non-climate-controlled space such as an attic or cellar-type environment.

## Effects of the Environment

If the temperature and humidity move out of the ideal range, as explained in the above paragraph, solid wood will respond by shrinking or swelling. Joints will gap slightly, or the opposite will occur, a gap will close. Uncontrolled humidity conditions can also cause splits or cracks in the wood grain pattern or at joints. This is the way wood, a natural product, reacts to its environment and are not considered defects.

## Dusting / Cleaning

Dust regularly with a soft, non-abrasive cloth, always wiping with the wood grain patterns and use a quality furniture polish such as the Milsek line of products. The high-quality top coat finish we apply will give a durable lasting surface that resists household spills and stains. However, spills should be wiped up promptly to avoid potential problems. For most routine cleaning of a spill, a soft cloth dampened with warm soapy water is all that is required to clean the furniture. Followed-up with a soft, clean, lint-free cloth to dry the surface.

## Protective Care Products

Avoid all furniture polishes and cleaners with ammonia or that contain silicone. The safe-zone is Lemon oil, it must be non-silicon and non-citrus high-quality furniture polish and cleaner. Although there are other lemon oil polishes available, we recommend using the Milsek line of furniture care products. These products are a safe multi-purpose polisher/cleaner with no residue or build up! Milsek care products can be purchased conveniently from our web site or in our showroom.

With proper care, your solid wood furniture will give you satisfaction for generations to come.