

A Guide to Maintaining a Timeless Hardwood

Care & Maintenance for White Oak from Good Luck Timbers

You have chosen one of the most durable and iconic hardwoods available. White Oak is celebrated for its strength, timeless beauty, and impressive resistance to wear, making it a cornerstone of quality craftsmanship. Its care is straightforward, focused on preserving the finish that protects this remarkably resilient wood.

The Foundation: Routine Care

Consistent, simple care is the best way to maintain White Oak's classic appeal.

- **Dusting:** Dust regularly with a soft, dry, lint-free cloth (like microfiber) to prevent the buildup of abrasive particles.
- **Cleaning:** For general cleaning, a cloth slightly dampened with water is usually sufficient. Wipe in the direction of the grain, then immediately follow with a dry cloth to remove any moisture.

Protecting the Finish

Most White Oak is sealed with a protective finish (like polyurethane or lacquer) that provides the primary defense against damage. Your job is to care for this finish.

- **Gentle Cleaning:** For sticky spots, use a wood-safe cleaner or a solution of mild soap and water. Apply it to your cloth, not directly to the wood. Clean the spot gently, rinse with a water-dampened cloth, and dry thoroughly.
- **Avoid Wax Buildup:** Unlike some other woods, most modern White Oak finishes do not require regular polishing or waxing. In fact, using waxes can cause a cloudy buildup over time that dulls the natural beauty of the wood.

Critical Mistakes to Avoid with White Oak

- **Never Use Excessive Water:** Standing water can seep into the grain and damage the wood and its finish. Clean up all spills immediately.
- **Avoid Harsh Cleaners:** Never use vinegar, ammonia-based cleaners, or abrasive scouring powders, as they can strip, scratch, or dull the protective finish.

- **Prevent Scratches:** Use felt pads under all furniture legs and decorative items. Be mindful of dragging heavy or sharp objects across the surface.

From all of us at Good Luck Timbers, we hope you enjoy the enduring strength and beauty of your White Oak for generations. For any further questions, you know who to call.