



COUNTRY CASUAL TEAK®

OUTDOOR FURNITURE SINCE 1977

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO CARING FOR TEAK WOOD

When it comes to caring for teak there's a lot of information out there. You'll find plenty online about how to clean teak but be warned, not all of it is accurate and many of the suggested methods could damage your furniture.

As teak specialists, we have many years of experience with caring for teak and can recommend what is most effective and safe for your teak furniture. We've put together our recommendations for everything from basic cleaning and sealing to more intense treatments, as well as do's and don'ts that you'll need to know when considering teak care.

Before getting started, you'll want to think about what you want from your teak. Is your furniture newer and still the golden blonde color that you want to keep? Or is your goal to give your weathered gray teak a refresh? Are you trying to protect it from stains? Maybe you are going for a full restoration to take weathered teak back to a blonde color? Once you know the answer, find our recommended instructions below.

If you have questions about any of this information, or want advice on your furniture, reach out to us. Our Furniture Specialists are happy to look at pictures and let you know which path is best.

For more information call **800.284.8325** to speak to a furniture specialist.
www.CountryCasualTeak.com



NEW TEAK

AGED 6 MONTHS

AGED 24 MONTHS

TEAK'S NATURAL AGING PROCESS

The composition of teak wood makes it advantageous for use in outdoor furniture. Grade A teak furniture also requires very little maintenance. It does not need extra finishes or treatments to last for years. The furniture can be left out year-round without impacting the integrity of the wood. What does change is the color of the wood. Teak wood begins with a warm, golden color, eventually fading to a silvery gray patina as it is left outdoors over time. The amount of time it takes to patina varies based on the amount of sun exposure and the type of environment the furniture is left in.

Do's & Don'ts For Teak Cleaning

Here are some tips for things to do, and avoid, while cleaning your outdoor teak furniture.

DO clean your teak with gloves and eye protection, especially when doing an intense cleaning with our Two-Part Cleaner.

DO use ground protection, such as a tarp, when cleaning or finishing teak. This is especially important on porous stone, concrete, or deck surfaces, as cleaning products can cause staining.

DO purchase our Utility kit, which includes all necessary supplies for cleaning and care applications.

DO test any cleaning products you are using on a small area on the underside of your furniture to see how it interacts with the teak and its color.

DO think about applying sealants and protectants to your furniture after cleaning to preserve the color and prevent stains/mold. The teak needs to be clean and completely dry and dust free before applying these.

DO wipe up any spills on teak furniture right away, so they don't set into the wood and cause stains.

DO occasionally wipe or hose down furniture between cleaning to keep dirt and debris to a minimum.

DO use coasters for drinks to avoid water rings on your teak.

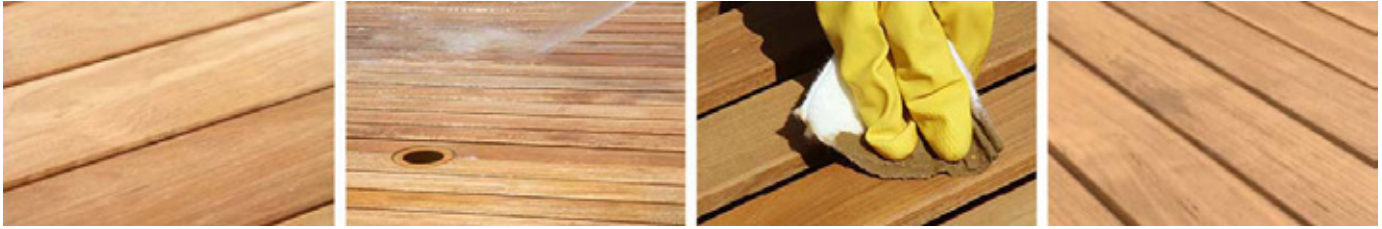
DON'T use teak oil on your outdoor furniture. Teak oil is linseed oil mixed with other ingredients, primarily solvents – it is not oil from teak trees. It is often touted as a necessary treatment for teak furniture, but it can cause more harm than good, leaving a sticky surface that will collect dirt and debris which causes mold and mildew to grow. Furniture treated with teak oil often turns black and can even feel gummy to the touch over time, especially in warm, humid climates. We recommend using water-based sealers which allow teak to breathe and lasts longer.

DON'T use cleaners, sealers or protectants that are harmful to plants, lawn, or animals (all of Country Casual Teak's products are eco-friendly.)

DON'T use steel wool, as small flecks of metal can lodge in the grain of the wood and rust over time.

DON'T sand against the grain as this will "scratch" the teak.

DON'T pressure wash your teak furniture as this will cause damage to the wood. This can remove the soft wood between the grain causing a rough, furrowed surface that in turn collects water and debris.



MAINTAINING THE GOLDEN COLOR OF NEW TEAK FURNITURE

Untreated teak will weather naturally to a silvery gray patina with exposure to the elements. To maintain the golden color of new teak, follow these steps.

Step 1. Prep the area by laying down a tarp.

Step 2. Prep the furniture by cleaning it with two tablespoons of mild dish soap and a gallon of water or our Teak Cleaner (strongly recommended if you are using our sealers) to remove surface oils and dust. Allow it to fully dry. If your teak feels rough to the touch after cleaning, you can do a light sanding with 220 grit paper to remove any rough fibers or wood particulate. Be sure to sand with the grain to avoid “scratching” the teak.

Step 3. Choose a sealing product. There are many color and finish options available on the market. We don't recommend using teak oil (see Do's and Dont's). It's always best to test any sealer on a small, hidden portion of your furniture. We recommend using a water-based sealer like our Golden Sealer. Shake the bottle for a minute to mix. Apply two thin coats with a soft cloth and wipe up any drips as you go. (See the Maintaining and Refinishing Teak Sealer section for more details).

Step 4. Outdoor environments are harsh. Any sealer will weather or wear away with time and use. It will need to be touched-up or reapplied periodically (every 1-2 years). Every few years, we recommend stripping down the furniture to the natural teak using our Two-Part Cleaner or similar product, before reapplying a sealer again. If you have questions about which is needed for your furniture, please reach out to us.

(Optional) Step 5. To protect the furniture from stains from food or drink you can apply a urethane sealer like our Clear Coat Gloss on top of the sealed teak.



BASIC CLEANING FOR TEAK FURNITURE

Using products you likely have at home, follow these easy steps to surface clean newer outdoor teak furniture.

Step 1. Prep the area for cleaning by laying down a tarp and placing your furniture on it. Then, wet your furniture with a garden hose.

Step 2. Choose a cleaning product. If you would like to use household items, combine two tablespoons of a mild cleanser such as liquid dish soap with a gallon of water in a large bucket. If you would prefer a cleaner formulated for teak, try our Teak Cleaner.

Step 3. Apply the solution to your teak furniture with a soft nylon brush gently scrubbing with the direction of the grain to avoid scraping up the surface of the wood.

Step 4. Once your teak is clean, hose it down once more and allow to dry.

(Optional) Step 5. If your teak feels rough to the touch after cleaning, you can do a light sanding with 220 grit paper to remove any rough fibers or wood particulate. Be sure to sand with the grain to avoid “scratching” the teak.

(Optional) Step 6. To help keep the golden blonde appearance of your new teak, use a sealer to lock in the original color and add UV inhibitors to prevent weathering. Sealers should be applied on new or recently cleaned teak that is dry to the touch. You need to ensure that the cleaner and sealer can work together. If you used our Teak Cleaner, we strongly recommend using our Golden Sealer, as the two have been tested together. Sealers should be applied on an annual basis, or as needed depending on your climate and placement of furniture. (See the Maintaining and Refinishing Teak Sealer section for more details).



INSTANTLY ACHIEVE THE GRAY COLOR OF WEATHERED TEAK

Exposed to the elements, it can take 1-2 years for untreated teak to weather naturally to a silvery gray patina. To get the look of weathered teak instantly, consider a gray sealer.

Step 1. Prep the area by laying down a tarp.

Step 2. Prep the furniture by cleaning it with two tablespoons of mild dish soap and a gallon of water or our Teak Cleaner (strongly recommended if you are using our sealers) to remove surface oils and dust. Allow it to fully dry. If your teak feels rough to the touch after cleaning, you can do a light sanding with 220 grit paper to remove any rough fibers or wood particulate. Be sure to sand with the grain to avoid “scratching” the teak.

Step 3. Choose a sealing product. There are many options available on the market. It’s always best to test any sealer on a small, hidden portion of your furniture. We recommend using a water-based sealer like our Gray Sealer. Shake the bottle well to mix. Apply two thin coats with a soft cloth and wipe up any drips as you go.

Step 4. Outdoor environments are harsh. Any sealer will weather or wear away with time and use. Gray sealers can be touched-up periodically, but remember that as the sealer wears away, you will be left with the natural weathered gray teak you originally desired.

(Optional) Step 5. To protect the furniture from stains from food or drink you can apply a urethane sealer like our Clear Coat Gloss on top of the sealed teak.



BASIC CLEANING FOR WEATHERED TEAK

Once your teak has weathered to a silvery gray, following these steps to remove dirt and some stains while keeping the gray color.

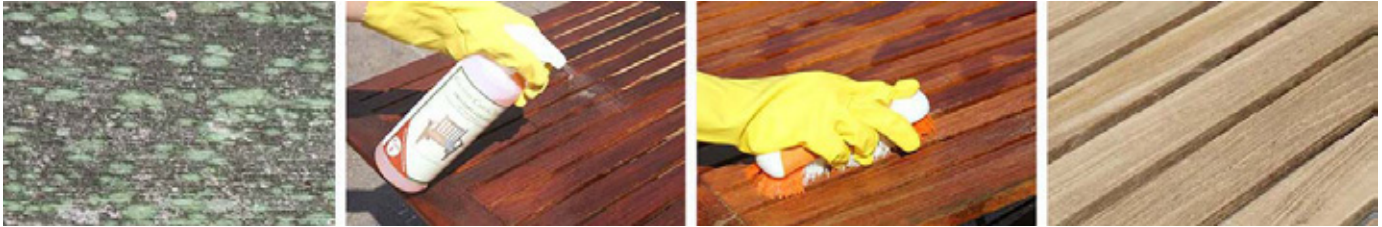
Step 1. Prep the area for cleaning by moving your furniture onto a tarp. Then, wet your furniture with a garden hose.

Step 2. Choose a cleaning product. If you are using household items, use a large bucket to combine two tablespoons of a mild cleanser such as liquid dish soap with a gallon of water. If you would like to use a product that has been formulated for teak, consider our Teak Cleaner.

Step 3. Apply the solution to your teak furniture with a soft nylon brush or coarse sponge, gently scrubbing with the direction of the grain to avoid scraping up the surface of the wood. To remove some of the silvery gray color apply more pressure with a coarse sponge. Note that excessive scrubbing will cause the gray color to become a blonde. If this happens it will weather back to gray with time.

Step 4. Once your teak is clean, hose it down once more and allow to dry.

(Optional) Step 5. If your teak feels rough to the touch after cleaning, you can do a light sanding with 220 grit paper to remove any rough fibers or wood particulate. Be sure to sand with the grain to avoid “scratching” the teak.



INTENSE CLEANING TO RESTORE WEATHERED TEAK TO BLONDE

The beauty of teak is that it can be cleaned at any time, no matter the stage of weathering, and returned to a light blonde color by following the steps below.

Step 1. Prep the area for cleaning by laying down a tarp. Then, wet your furniture with a garden hose.

Step 2. Choose a cleaning product. For a solution that is formulated for teak try our Two-Part Cleaner.

Step 3. Using a squeeze or spray bottle, apply the solution to your teak furniture. Scrub vigorously with a coarse sponge or nylon brush in the direction of the grain to remove dirt, stains, mold or mildew and prior finishes.

Step 4. Once your teak is clean, hose it down once more and allow to dry. If you are using our Two-Part Cleaner, apply part two while furniture is still wet, then rinse thoroughly.

(Optional) Step 5. If your teak feels rough to the touch after cleaning, you can do a light sanding with 220 grit paper to remove any rough fibers or wood particulate. Be sure to sand with the grain to avoid “scratching” the teak.



APPLYING A STAIN PROTECTOR

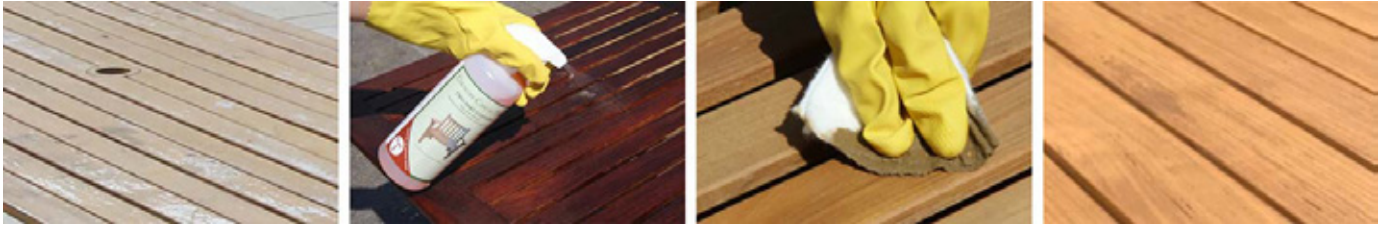
Teak, like any natural wood, can soak up spills causing a stain. To protect the surface of the teak a stain protector can be applied. This will make cleaning and maintaining the wood easier. To apply the stain, follow these steps.

Step 1. Prep the area by laying down a tarp.

Step 2. Prep the furniture by cleaning it with soap and water or our Teak Cleaner (strongly recommended if you are using our Stain Guard) to remove surface oils and dust. Allow it to fully dry.

Step 3. Choose a stain protecting product. There are many color and finish options available on the market. We don't recommend using teak oil (see Do's and Dont's) or urethane products directly on natural teak (teak's natural surface oils can make it hard for urethane to adhere to the surface). We recommend using either a water-based protector like our Teak Water & Stain Guard or a longer lasting urethane-based sealer like our Clear Coat Gloss. Clear Coat Gloss must be applied over top of a sealer such as Golden or Gray Sealer. It's always best to test any product on a small, hidden portion of your furniture. Shake the container well to mix. Apply two thin coats with a soft cloth or foam brush and wipe up any drips as you go.

Step 4. Outdoor environments are harsh. Any protector will weather or wear away with time and use. It will need to be touched-up or reapplied periodically (every 3-6 months). Test water repellency by dripping some water onto the surface. If water ceases to bead up, additional coats of protector should be applied to a clean, dry surface.



MAINTAINING & REFINISHING SEALED TEAK

Outdoor environments are harsh. Any sealer will weather or wear away with time and use and will need to be touched-up or reapplied periodically. Follow the steps below to maintain sealed furniture.

It's important to note that sealers or paint on some pre-finished teak may be covering up inferior wood. Stripping off the finish will expose this. It is not recommended to use this furniture unfinished, as it will quickly deteriorate if exposed. An oil based, non-transparent sealer may be required if this is the case. Country Casual Teak never uses sap wood or inferior wood on our products, so you always have the option to remove the finish and enjoy the beauty of the high quality, natural teak underneath.

Step 1. If the sealer or finish is severely worn away or peeling, it must be completely stripped off and resealed. Follow steps 2-5 below. If the sealer has only worn away in a few places, simply clean with a solution of mild dish soap and water, allow to fully dry, then touch up using your chosen sealer.

Step 2. Prep the area by laying down a tarp or move to an appropriate workspace. Wear chemical-resistant gloves and eye protection.

Step 3. Strip off the old finish by cleaning or sanding (or a combination of both). For water-based sealers like our Golden Sealer and many urethane finishes like our Clear Coat Gloss, use our Two Part Cleaner.

Step 4. Two Part Cleaner is an intense cleaning solution made up of Part 1, which dissolves dirt and old finishes, and Part 2, which neutralizes Part 1 and brightens teak. First, generously wet the furniture with a garden hose. Using a spray bottle, apply Part 1 to fully saturate the surface. Allow to soak for a few minutes. Scrub with coarse sponge or soft nylon bristle brush. Rinse cleaned area thoroughly with the hose. Apply Part 2, scrubbing lightly. Rinse again and allow to fully dry. Repeat this process if you still have stains.

Step 5. If your teak feels rough to the touch, do a light sanding with 220 grit paper, sanding in the direction of the wood grain.

Step 6. Choose a sealing product. There are many color and finish options available on the market. We don't recommend using teak oil (see Do's and Don't's). It's always best to test any sealer on a small, hidden portion of your furniture. Make sure your furniture is dry and dust free. We recommend using a water-based sealer like our Golden Sealer. Shake the bottle well to mix. Apply two thin coats with a soft cloth and wipe up any drips as you go.

Step 7. (Optional) To protect the furniture from stains from food or drink you can apply a urethane sealer like our Clear Coat Gloss on top of the sealed teak.



CLEANING OUR OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE FABRICS

We only use outdoor fabrics that are specially formulated for sustained outdoor use, resisting water, fading, and fraying. While our outdoor fabrics are resistant to stains and damage from mildew or chlorine, we know that over time cleaning may be necessary. Our cushions, pillows, and umbrella canopies fabrics are easy to clean, only requiring simple household cleaners.

Spot Clean

We recommend regularly spot cleaning any lighter stains from liquids, food, or dirt. Good for cushions, canopies or fabrics that have not been cleaned in less than a year.

- Step 1.** Brush off any loose particles and rinse fabric completely with clean water.
- Step 2.** Mix a solution of 1 TBSP liquid dish soap in 1 GAL lukewarm water (no more than 100F.)
- Step 3.** Gently scrub fabric with a soft nylon brush or sponge.
- Step 4.** Rinse fabric thoroughly in cold water to remove cleaner.
- Step 5.** Allow to air dry. Unzip cushions and stand on end to speed dry time.

DEEP CLEAN

A more intensive cleaning method, good for cushions, canopies or fabrics that have not been washed or cleaned in more than a year or after intensive use.

- Step 1.** Brush off any loose particles and rinse fabric completely with clean water.
- Step 2.** Mix a solution of 1 TBSP liquid dish soap and 1 CUP household bleach in 1 GAL lukewarm water (no more than 100F.)
- Step 3.** Gently scrub fabric with a soft nylon brush or sponge.
- Step 4.** Rinse fabric thoroughly in cold water to remove cleaner.
- Step 5.** Allow to air dry. Unzip cushions and stand on end to speed dry time.

IMPORTANT

DON'T remove the foam from inside the cushion while cleaning – cushions can easily be cleaned with the foam in place. Zippers can be opened for faster drainage and drying if needed.

Country Casual Teak does NOT recommend washing cushion covers or pillows in a washing machine or dry cleaning them. The agitation and spinning will fray the seam allowance on the inside to weaken or rip seams. Country Casual Teak is not responsible for damage resulting from machine washing, and machine washing negates any warranty on fabric, canopies, pillows or cushions.

Common Questions About Cleaning Teak

Here are some other topics you might want to think about.

Indoor vs Outdoor

Teak furniture that does not have any finishes or sealers applied will weather naturally outdoors, giving the wood a beautiful silvery patina. If teak furniture is placed indoors and not exposed directly to UV rays, it will not weather. The color of the teak will then naturally oxidize and turn a dark golden color. For indoor use, your teak furniture should not require maintenance beyond an occasional wipe down with a soft cloth to remove dust and dirt. For additional protection, you can apply a stain protector to your indoor teak furniture.

Paint

If you are considering painting your teak furniture, it is important to understand that teak is an oily wood by nature and putting paint on the wood will trap the oils underneath. Doing this may cause issues with the paint over time, such as the paint flaking off or the oil “bubbling up” under the surface. The oils of teak are what keep it looking beautiful for generations, and painting teak covers up the beauty of teak itself. If you are adamant on painting your teak furniture, we recommend that customers talk to their local paint or wood stain expert to find which products work best on teak and how best to apply them.

Climate/Environment

Teak can be kept in any environment, due to its oily wood and weather-resistant properties. However, every environment has its own unique properties that must be taken into consideration when you are looking to add teak furniture to it.

For windy environments, we recommend always anchoring your furniture when possible, or storing it in a covered structure when not in use.

For moist or shady environments, we recommend a protectant or shield, such as our Silver Teak Shield, to avoid mold or mildew on your furniture.

For dry, arid climates, we recommend occasionally wetting your teak with water, to help return some moisture. Teak will never completely dry out in desert environments, since it has so many natural oils, but you can reduce the appearance of end-grain checking with an occasional application of water. (End-grain checking is normal and does not affect the structural integrity of the furniture.)

Pests

Occasionally, we get reports of pests such as wasps or squirrels biting or eating outdoor teak furniture. While this is uncommon, we can offer a few tips to help deter them.

For Wasps

To discourage wasps you can use a visual deterrent such as a waspinator, for an eco-friendly, easy way to deter them. Wasps are territorial, so they should not invade the space of another nest. If a visual deterrent does not work, or you choose to use a penetrating treatment, test it on a small portion of your teak before applying it to the entire piece to avoid any unforeseen issues. Wasps and bees are also repelled by eucalyptus oil, menthol, citronella, and lemongrass, so looking for a DEET and chemical-free insect repellent at an organic foods store may be a good place to start. Mix this repellent with equal parts water and apply sparingly to your furniture. Again, test this mixture in a small spot before applying to the whole piece.

For Squirrels

To deter squirrels, we recommend removing any sources of water or incidental food such as bird feeders or pet dishes. You can then use mothballs or shake cayenne pepper on and around your furniture or find a taste repellent containing Capsaicin at a garden or hardware store.

Choose from our line of care products to retain or refurbish your teak

www.countrycasualteak.com/teak-care



Golden Sealer

1 Liter | #S1151 / 3 Liters | #S1153



Clean & Golden Seal Kit for New Teak

1 Liter | #S151C / 3 Liter | #S153C



Clean & Golden Seal Kit for Aged Teak

1 Liter | #S1162C / 3 Liter | #S1163C



Teak Cleaner

1 Liter | #S2151 / 3 Liters | #S2153



Two-Part Cleaner

1 Quart | #S2062 / 1 Gallon | #S2063



Silver Teak Shield

1 Liter | #S3151 / 3 Liters | #S3153



Teak Water & Stain Guard

1 Liter | #S4151 / 3 Liters | #S4153



Clear Coat Gloss

1 Quart | #S3072 / 1 Gallon | #S3073



Gray Sealer

1 Liter | #S7151 / 3 Liters | #S7153