

Product Information – Care and Maintenance

Care and Maintenance of your Picnic Table

Caring for your outdoor furniture is as crucial as the initial purchase. For wooden materials it is important to clean the wood if the furniture is dirty or has mould, algae or mildew. Regular cleaning is important for any wooden furniture, no matter the quality of the timber.

The best way to clean your table is with a soft sponge and water. Always allow the wood to dry completely. You should also re-varnish or paint your table every 4 to 6 months, depending on the exposure to the elements.

Tighten the Joints

Over time, the joints can loosen in timber outdoor furniture. It is recommended to check the joints regularly for signs of looseness or instability. If you notice any, simply re-tension the bolts.

Be aware that not doing this can actually cause damage to your furniture over time, causing its life to be prematurely shortened.

The best part about our products is that they are low maintenance and can last forever.

Things to remember

- Timber colour may vary slightly from our photos and each other, (for multiple orders)
- All tables are treated with non-arsenic treatment.
- Timber will always try its hardest to match its environment.
- Wood is an organic substance.
- Conduct a routine maintenance check every 6-12 months.
- Best protection for the timber and easy maintenance is to recoat before deterioration.
- The first sign of needing to be recoated is patchiness and discolouration.

Wood moves, swells, and shrinks – this should be fully understood and expected when purchasing any outdoor timber product. Sometimes these cracks can open up alarmingly large but remember it is entirely normal. Once the inner core has dried the crack will close up. Likewise as the moisture in the air increased so will the free water absorbed by capillary action in the wood and once again the cracks will close up. None of these splits or cracks in the timber will affect its structural integrity or inherent strength.

Keep the Timber Protected

If you don't protect the surface of the timber, it will naturally turn a silvery grey colour as it ages and will begin to deteriorate, (cracking, peeling etc). Tables should be re-varnished or painted every 4-6 months depending on their exposure to the elements. Try to find a varnish/paint that has water, fungi and mould resistance properties.

Warranty of Service work

Picnic Tables WA warrants any product for a period of 12 months from the date of purchase. You should inspect your table at the point of delivery and contact us within 5 business days, (in writing) detailing any concerns or issues. If you forward on the tables to a different location, (e.g. on-sell) then we will only inspect the tables in the location to which they were delivered.

This warranty is limited to the making of goods – structural integrity of the furniture. The 12-month warranty does not cover the natural product of Timber. Any defects should be photographed and detailed immediately and submitted to the team for consideration. Any tampering with the furniture’s structure will make the warranty void.

Normal visual & behavioural characteristics of wood – what you should expect from our Picnic Tables

Part of what makes wood so beautiful is its unique grain and the character that comes from it being a natural, living material. But because it spent decades growing in a forest, real wood—and the furniture made from it—will never be perfect. For example, all wood furniture will have some color variation and marks and it will grow and shrink slightly with changes in the environment.

- **Color Variation** – Boards of the same species will look a little different, both from tree to tree and also within the same tree. A little science to explain why: The outer part of the trunk is called sapwood, and it’s made up of the active cells that carry water through the tree. This sapwood tends to be lighter in color than the inner part of the trunk. We do our best to color match boards so your table looks as good as it can—but we cannot guarantee that every board will look the same.
- **Color Changes** – After you get your wood furniture home, it will change color as it is exposed to light.
- **Grain Variation** – The grain is caused by the growth rings of the tree, which result in the swirly lines you see running through the surface of wood furniture. Certain species of wood have consistent grain visibility –but within a species, the grain on each board will look different.
- **Knots** – The spot where a branch hits the trunk can cause circular patterns called knots. Some species like Pine have a lot of knots—it’s actually a characteristic of that wood. Larger knots are removed from boards before they’re made into furniture, but smaller knots (sometimes called pin knots) are part of the wood’s character. Most of our tables will have a knot somewhere on the table.
- **Mineral Streaks** – These are darker lines that follow the wood grain. They’re caused by minerals that the tree extracts from the soil while it grows.

All of these features are part of the beautiful character of wood and are to be expected in your picnic table. Wood remains dynamic even after it’s been cut down and it constantly adapts to its environment. Changes in environmental moisture will cause the wood to expand (this happens when there’s more moisture in the air) or shrink (caused by less moisture in the air). This movement may cause small-but-noticeable structural changes.

Furniture moves in a very specific way: It expands only in width (a board won’t grow longer) and absorbs more moisture in the ends.