

## WINTER CARE INSTRUCTIONS

### BEWARE OF THERMAL SHOCK

#### EXTREME ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

One of the greatest care concerns for any solid wood product is thermal shock. This can happen any time there is an extreme change in the environment. A consistent environment should be maintained, and any time an extreme change is necessary, the products should be gradually introduced to the new environmental conditions, over the first two weeks.

#### TIME OF DELIVERY

Thermal shock can most commonly occur at time of delivery, when the product is moved from the warehouse (where conditions may be very cold, especially in the winter time) and into your home, which can be very warm. We recommend that the relevant room in your home is kept fairly cool for the first 2 weeks after delivery, keeping radiators low and underfloor heating off. Over the two week period, you may gradually increase the temperature. This will allow the furniture to adjust to its new environment.

#### HOLIDAY HOMES

Additionally, thermal shock is a risk for homes which are empty for lengthy periods of time. When uninhabited, the home may get quite cold, and when the home is reinhabited, the heating is turned on, dramatically changing the environment. Keep the relevant room in your home fairly cool for the first 2 weeks, keeping radiators low and underfloor heating off. Gradual increases of heat over the first two weeks are the best way to avoid thermal shock.

### WINTER CONDITIONS

Beware that the cold, dry conditions of the winter months, combined with the heating in your home can create a very dry environment that may be detrimental both to you and to your furniture. Solid wood furniture has numerous aesthetic and performance related benefits, and these qualities need to be nourished by the proper care of the furniture.

If conditions are dry, your timber may shrink, causing cracks, or warping (cupping or bowing). If this occurs, it is a natural reaction of the timber to its environment. A crack may appear somewhere within a plank, and will usually disappear when conditions are more humid as the timber swells. Planar surfaces (made up of several planks glued together) can also warp. Prevention is the best protection against warping and cracks.

Every care has been taken in manufacture to stabilise the wood and to allow for expansion and contraction of the timber without problems. However, it is essential that you care for your solid wood furniture by normalising its living conditions as much as possible. Though the finishes we use minimise the effect of environmental conditions, they do not remove the effects completely. Wood is a living, breathing material and will continue to react to its environment throughout its lifetime. It is very important that you provide a stable environment for your furniture. The simplest way to measure the

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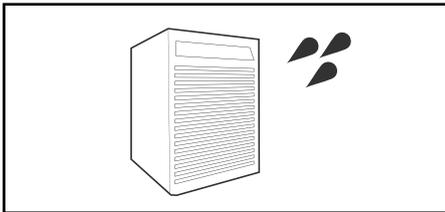
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humidity in the environment is by using an RH Hygrometer. This is a low cost device (about the cost of a latte) which is very simple to use and is a great help toward keeping your furniture healthy.

#### UNDERFLOOR HEATING

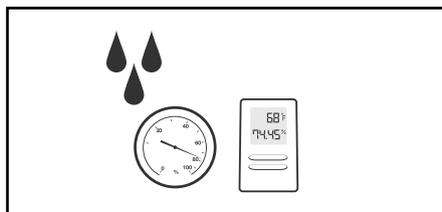
If you have underfloor heating, we recommend turning it to a low setting and maintaining the temperature for extended periods of time. Short bursts of extreme heat followed by cold are detrimental to the furniture.

Follow these simple steps to maintain your furniture in the winter months.



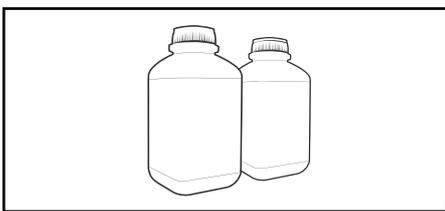
#### 1. USE A HUMIDIFIER

Humidifiers can help restore moisture in the environment that may be lost through the winter months.



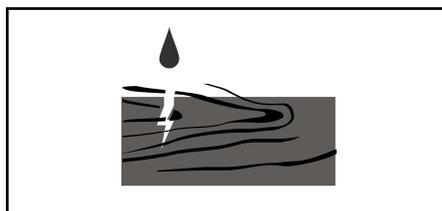
#### 2. USE AN RH HYGROMETER

Hygrometers allow you to monitor the Relative Humidity in your home, to ensure that the conditions are neither too humid, nor too dry. The ideal conditions for your furniture are 50% relative humidity at 20 degrees Celsius (normal interior temperature).



#### 3. REAPPLY WAX REGULARLY

If your furniture has an oil finish, keep plenty of Wax Refresher on hand for reapplications (additional Wax Refresher can be purchased through De La Espada). The frequent application of wax will keep the wood as sealed as possible, providing a protective barrier against the environment. NOTE: If you have a lacquered finish on your timber, do NOT apply wax.



#### 4. FILL CRACKS WITH SOFT WAX

If cracks do occur in your timber, you may wish to fill them with a cosmetic repair wax in a matching colour. The wax will temporarily fill the crack, then when conditions are more humid and the timber naturally swells to regain its original shape, the wax will push out as the crack closes and can be removed easily.

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