

## Care Guide

### *Standard Finish - Fiddes Hard Wax Oil or Osmo Polyx Oil*

Your new furniture may well last you a lifetime! Like all cherished possessions, it will need a bit of TLC in order to be properly looked after. Taking this extra bit of care will mean you can watch the wood age with grace. The item you receive may already show natural colour variation, knots, shakes, and variation in the grain's pattern. This is very much part of the natural charm of the material we use. Solid wood is different to many materials as it will continue to move and adjust depending on its surroundings.

### Day to Day use

The wood has been finished with a Hard Wax Oil. These types of finishes are designed to be used and cared for in the home environment. We would always recommend using placemats and coasters to protect the finish from heat and moisture (e.g. condensation and spills).

Specialist wood cleaners are our recommended cleaning products for all solid wood surfaces. For daily cleaning of the furniture, we would recommend using Fiddes Wood Surface Cleaner. However, you may wish to use a slightly soapy damp cloth. The surface should always be dried thoroughly after cleaning.

If something is spilt on the surface, we would suggest wiping this up straight away. This is particularly important if the liquid is known for staining (e.g. coffee, red wine, or vinegar). Whilst the finish is water resistant, it is not waterproof, and the wood will naturally try to absorb liquid due to being a porous material.

Steel components should be cleaned using a soft dry cloth to wipe away any dust or dirt. Never use abrasive sponges or scourers on the surface. Any moisture should be immediately dried off of the surface.

### Yearly Care

We recommend topping up the finish on occasion. All wooden parts (except any plywood drawers) will need oiling every 12 - 18 months, depending on their usage. Tabletops will need oiling every 6 - 12 months. We have products available to purchase from our website to help with this.

All steel parts which have a raw finish will need waxing every 12 months (depending on the humidity) to protect the steel from oxidation. Steel can be waxed using clear furniture wax. For sprayed steel finishes (e.g. Matt Black) or Powder Coated finishes (available upon request), please do not apply wax. These surfaces are already protected and will just need to be kept clean.

If you would like any advice about caring for or refinishing your piece, feel free to get in touch. Here are our team's top tips!

- Always clean and dry the surface thoroughly before applying a finish
- Make sure you are in a clean, well-ventilated space free from dirt, dust, and animal hair
- Always follow the direction of the grain when sanding
- Stir the finish well before and during the application
- Use a brush to transport the oil/stain to the surface; this allows for greater control over the amount used. A brush is not suited for applying the finish

*Caution! - Oily cloths and sponges can spontaneously ignite, they must be kept and disposed of inside an airtight metal or glass container.*

## Yearly Finish Care Instructions

### **Standard Finish Range**

*Fiddes Hard Wax Oil and Osmo Polyx Oil: Clear Satin, White Tint, Clear Matt, American, English, Terra, Whiskey, Smoked Oak, Dark Oak, Onyx, Belgium Grey...*

This should be done either with the tinted finish originally used on the piece or the Clear finish. If you wish to refresh the colour, we would recommend adding at least one fresh coat of tinted oil.

- Clean the surface thoroughly to remove any dust or dirt, then leave to dry
- Stir the oil thoroughly before and during application
- Apply the oil sparingly using either a clean, lint-free, white cloth or a finishing sponge. Never pour the oil directly onto the surface
- Once the entire surface has been lightly coated in a thin and even layer, wipe away the excess oil using a lint-free cloth. The surface should be wiped in the direction of the grain
- Allow 6 hours for the Fiddes Hard Wax Oil to dry in a warm, dry, and well-ventilated room. Allow 8 - 10 hours for the Osmo branded oils (e.g. *Terra Oil*)
- Once dry, you may wish to repeat this process, adding up to two more coats

### **Raw Steel Finish**

This should be done using a Clear Furniture Wax, we would recommend *Liberon Black Bison Paste Wax Clear*.

- Wipe down the steel with a dry cloth to remove any dust or dirt
- Once clean, apply a thin, even layer of wax. This should be applied in the direction of the grain using a clean, lint-free cloth
- Leave the wax to absorb into the surface for 30 minutes
- Using a new clean cloth, buff the entire surface

# Maintaining Your Furniture

## Temperature

The surrounding air temperature plays an important role in relative air humidity. Changes in the temperature can cause the wood to quickly react by expanding/contracting. This movement can cause the wood to move (warp/cup) and new shakes (cracks) to open. This could result in openings at the joints. Ideally, the relative humidity for solid wood furniture is between 30-60%.

As a result, furniture should not be placed near strong heat sources such as radiators and wood burners, etc. Likewise, furniture should not be stored in places where the temperature can suddenly change such as outdoors, conservatories, or out houses etc.

Whilst the finishes are resistant to moderate heat from plates and mugs, this will degrade the finish faster and could mark the surface; we always recommend using coasters and placemats. Intense heat (e.g. hot pans) may burn the wood itself, and burn marks can be difficult to remove.

## Sun/UV Light

Whilst the colour of the wood will mature with age, UV light can also impact the colour. Like many materials, uneven exposure to sunlight could result in colour differences. If your furniture is placed in direct sunlight, you should avoid leaving anything on the surface for extended periods. We recommend regularly moving items stored on the surface to allow even exposure to UV. For certain items (e.g. Dining Tables) it might be advisable to rotate the item every so often.

## Humidity/Moisture/Water Resistance

We always recommend using coasters and placemats to protect the surface of your furniture from moisture, condensation, and heat. Liquids shouldn't be left standing on the surface and should be dried straight away. This is particularly important if the liquid is known for staining (e.g. coffee, red wine, or vinegar).

Moist and humid conditions can cause the grain to feel rough. Wood is a porous material so will naturally try to absorb moisture from its surroundings, causing the grain to swell. These conditions can also influence the relative air humidity as detailed in the "Temperature" section. Steel should be Powder-Coated (available upon request) when kept in a humid or wet environment, or in a location where sea air may react with the steel.

## Scratches/Marks/Damage

Sometimes furniture gets damaged, however solid wood furniture treated with Hard Wax Oil is very easy to repair at home. For a substantial scratch or mark, it might be necessary to contact a local woodworker who is experienced with the use of Hard Wax Oil finishes. They can then assess the best options to restore the piece.

For light damage, the area will need to be sanded to remove the scratch or mark entirely before the finish is reapplied. The area should be lightly sanded in the direction of the grain using a sanding sponge with fine sandpaper (180 grit or higher). If your piece was made with Character Oak, then our team will have sanded the piece to 180 grit. For Prime Oak and Walnut pieces, the wood will be sanded to 240 grit, so you should either start with 180 grit and work up to 240 grit, or try removing the mark with just 240 grit.

If you have been able to remove the scratch/mark with sandpaper, then the finish will now need to be reapplied. Please follow the instructions on the following page.

## Finish Repair Instructions

### **Standard Finish Range**

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For items finished with our Standard Finish Range, you should use the finish originally used on the piece. A second coat of tinted Oil (to further deepen the colour) or Clear may be required to fully protect the area.

- Clean all dust from the surface using a vacuum
- Stir the oil thoroughly before and during application
- Apply the Fiddes/Osmo Oil in the colour originally used on the piece. This should be applied sparingly to the area that needs repairing with either a clean, lint-free, white cloth or a finishing sponge. Never pour the stain directly onto the surface
- Leave a thin even layer of oil to soak into the surface for 2 - 5 minutes
- Wipe away the excess oil using a lint-free cloth; the surface should be buffed in the direction of the grain
- Allow 6 hours for the Fiddes Hard Wax Oil to dry in a warm, dry, and well-ventilated room. Allow 8 - 10 hours for the Osmo branded oils (e.g. *Terra Oil*)