

-Care for wooden objects

- General

Most furniture is made of wood. By its nature wood will always keep its capacity to shrink or expand, the amount of which depends on the Relative Humidity (RH). Extremely dry or humid climate or sudden changes in the RH will cause damage like warping and cracking. Therefore wooden furniture should be kept under constant conditions, preferably of ca. 18° Celsius and 55% Relative Humidity. Instruments called thermohygrographes can measure the RH and the temperature. If the conditions are not ideal a humidifier should be installed. _

Never place furniture in direct sunlight, this will cause irreversible bleaching.

Never place furniture against a cold (outer) wall, this can cause mould to grow.

Never place furniture against or near central heating.

Avoid placing furniture" next to a doorway or in a narrow hallway since this will speed up damage.

Use

Never place objects directly on top of furniture but place a piece of felt underneath.

Do not put flowers or plants on top of furniture because this will sooner or later cause water stains, which can take intrusive measures to remove. If the owner insist on having flowers or plants placed on furniture, put a plate underneath.

Avoid hot pans or glasses being placed directly onto old furniture since they will cause bleached marks. If a piece of furniture is regularly used for serving drinks or food consider placing a glass plate on top that has the same measurements as the top itself

Often furniture is filled up to the rim with stuff. This will cause considerable wear. Therefore store as little stuff as possible in old furniture and only things that are not often needed.

- Care

When something is broken never glue it yourself. Old furniture was made with animal glue and only a professional restorer knows how to work with it properly.

Mopping should not be done around the feet of furniture. Vacuum cleaning can cause considerable damage to the feet as well.

Never vacuum upholstered seats but dust them of. Vacuuming will cause dust to collect against the inside of the fabric, which is an ideal breeding ground for insects and moulds. More over, vacuum cleaners easily damage old fabrics.

Metal parts can easily tarnish by the touch of one's hands. Wear gloves when touching metal parts.

Polishing metal parts that are still attached to furniture can stain the wood around the metals. Better use a silver polishing cloth only. If this does not give a satisfying result have a restorer treat the metals.

Furniture can be waxed once a year. Only use past wax that is entirely made up of beeswax, paraffin and/or carnaube wax. Put a little on your cloth and spread it out over the surface in fast moves, finishing with strokes along the grain. Use a second cloth or very soft brush to buff out. Buffing out can best be done with a pair of tights stuffed with a cloth. Never wax painted and gilded surfaces.

Gilded surfaces like frames should be dusted with a soft brush only. Gilded frames like paintings should never be cleaned with any liquids.

Check for woodworm every early summer. Infestation of woodworm causes wood dust and light colored holes with irregular rims.

Handling

When moving furniture always check for loose parts first.

Never move a piece of furniture by sliding or pushing it, instead lift it off the ground. Cabinets, chests of drawers and the like should have their doors and drawers removed before being moved.

Chairs should be lifted "by their seat and not at the armrests or back.

loose parts of furniture should be put in separate small plastic bags with a label and should be kept with the piece of furniture.

- The restorer

Please consult a professional restorer in the following instances: When drawers or doors don't open smoothly.

When veneer is coming of[

When the finish shows stains.

When cracks are showing or when parts have broken of[

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