



# Guidelines For Maintenance / Disclaimer

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## Wood

### Our Wood Is Never Perfect

Before you acquire one of our creations, you should be aware that our wooden furniture is never perfect. Whether you opted for our Antique or Reclaimed Hardwood, there will be traces of its previous life: some will have warped or cracked a bit, show traces of restoration, some discoloration, Antique dealers call this 'Patina'. These features make our furniture unique, like antiques. We do not use industrial belt sanders, all our finishes are done by hand, and this will show.

### Maintaining Wood

Wood is a natural, living, breathing material which reacts to extreme temperature and humidity fluctuations. While we take every precaution while creating your furniture, you might find that wood joints slightly open - and close again - with the changing of the seasons, this is normal and unavoidable and should not be a cause of concern: air the room regularly, let your furniture gently adapt to its new surroundings.

Note: We had one issue with a client who was not happy to say the least: "Your furniture cracks!" We went to check and indeed noticed quite big gaps, too big to be normal. We wondered what we could possibly have done wrong and repaired the table for free. A month later we received the same call... We returned and only then realized what the problem was: the client owns a penthouse in Bangkok, but only uses this a couple of days a month. While he is away the sun blasts the floor-to-ceiling windows, full on, without curtains, turning the space into a veritable sauna. When the client'd come home, he'd crank up the AC, causing an extreme temperature shock: way too fast, way too furious for any wooden furniture. Since we explained this, he took our suggestions at heart and the issue is no more.

### Oil Finish

Every wood finish has pros and cons. A perfect wood-finish does not exist. While we offer a wide range of finishes - homemade wax, hot wax, water-based PU and even traditional French Polish - almost every client opts for an oil finish: a natural, easy to maintain finish which offers a great protection.

We carefully sand the wood and apply several coats of oil, with light sanding in between. The number of coats needed depend on the hardness and dryness of the wood. Be aware that an oil

finish is never 100% waterproof, reason why we suggest using coasters and recommend cleaning up spills immediately.

There is no need to frantically run to the kitchen when a glass is spilled; most of our wood varieties are very dense and the oil finish will ensure the spilled liquid won't penetrate.

However, do not leave spills overnight and never put hot pots directly on the wood. We'd place a protection under a flower vase to avoid condensation rings.

What if your party was a tad too wild? Your P. Tendercool table has a Mark!

Again, no reason to despair, no harm is done, this can be easily fixed: get a blow-dryer and heat the mark/ring to make sure all humidity is gone, dig up your maintenance kit which comes with your furniture and check the video on our site. (If this is unclear or if you opted for another finish than oil and are not sure what to do? Contact us)

## Bronze / Brass / Aluminum

### Sand Casting

**Tiny Holes** — All our table and chair bases are sand cast by hand, one by one, in Bronze, Brass or Aluminum, following traditional techniques. The sand-casting process involves high heat, liquid metal, and subsequent cooling, a process which may leave a few air-bubbles caught in the metal, causing tiny holes in the surface. This is normal and unavoidable.

**Oxidation** — Bronze, Brass and Aluminum are metals which, like all metals, oxidize over time when in direct contact with air/ humidity (if you ever had the pleasure polishing your 'Family Silver' you'll know): you might notice some discoloration of the surface and some loss of gloss (if the metal was polished originally). Antique dealers call this 'Patina', a coveted sign of age. We apply a protective coat (to seal off from the air) which significantly slows down the oxidation-process but does not completely stop it. There are commercial products on the market to clean off this oxidation. A thin layer of beeswax will act as a sealant too. Contact us if you're not sure.

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**Reaction From Within** — While a sealant will slow down oxidation, some dark or even light marks might become visible after a while as the metal alloy still reacts from within. Both reactions are normal. We apply a sealer and a slightly colored coat (with brass powder, to mask most imperfections inherent to the technique).

### **Welding**

When we use Bronze, Brass or Aluminum in our furniture you may notice welding marks: small patches or corners where the surface texture differs a bit. Corners may be rounded slightly or show toolmarks from filing.

Our Brass Low Tables are created by welding solid extruded Brass bars. This process is 100% done by hand and is therefore never machine-perfect: a typical brass table has 8 corners where 3 bars are joint, a technical challenge few can accomplish.

Since metal expands when heated, retracts when cooled there is a slight margin of error which we have to allow: there might be small gaps between two hand-welded tables.

### **Maintaining Bronze / Brass / Aluminum**

Our metal work is basically maintenance free. As described higher we apply a sealant, a protective layer which slows the natural oxidation process. This is a sturdy layer which protects for many years. Be careful with sharp objects as metal on metal will scratch (think car-lacquer and keys). Colored metal will gradually fade (wear off) over time in much used areas.

### **Leather**

We opted for Italian cow leather, tinted in small batches in a local tannery. Since none of our furniture is perfect (see higher) we prefer to choose leather with 'Character': we select and use complete hides, some parts of the leather may show lines (as around the neck of the cow) and imperfections. As for most of our wooden furniture we opt for an oil finish to protect the leather and we refrain from plastic coating. Our leather looks and feels natural but will patinate: over time your leather chairs will look like that vintage leather jacket you'd want to be buried in, that leather belt you had your whole life, those Italian shoes you can't throw away. Your chairs will darken where you sit,

will get scratched by your jeans, ...will come alive.

Like you, they will age with grace.

Maintain them like you would your leather shoes, clean them with a moist cloth, neutral soap, massage with some saddle oil or high-quality neutral shoe-cream.

### **Photographs**

We take care when we photograph our creations or produce our samples, but computer monitors differ, colors may not be exactly rendered and with the risk of repeating ourselves: all our creations are finished by hand.

Should you have any additional questions, do ask us:

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