

## AVOCA OUTDOOR RANGE

### PRODUCT INFORMATION GENERAL CARE

#### CUSHIONS

Sunproof® fabrics resist stains, mildew & fading, making it easy-care & weather-friendly. Although resistant, mildew will still thrive & appear in environments with dirt, moisture & humidity

Cushions should be removed - whenever possible - before covering the frames for longer than a few days to avoid mould & mildew build up. Cushions should not be stored on the frames for prolonged periods of time when not in use - always store separately where possible.

If cushions get wet, tip them on their sides with zipper facing down & unzipped to ensure all water drains.

Cushions must be completely dry & clean before storage.

Avoid letting water stand on the surface of the cushions. Whenever possible store your cushions in a clean dry place.

Clean your cushions - while Avoca furniture fabrics are designed for outdoor use, this does not mean they won't get dirty. Mould & mildew can grow on dirt.



Spread a towel over your chair, sofa or sunlounge before applying insect repellent, suntan lotion or oil. While some products are totally harmless, others may cause the fabric to "burn" or change color as every tanning preparation uses a different chemical formulation. So, play it safe and use a towel.

Cushions should not be left in heavy rain & if they are wet, always allow to air-dry

#### TEAK

Natural & stained teak weathers to a beautiful silver-grey patina - sometimes in a short space of time. This weathering process will vary depending on climate, exposure to the elements, & commitment to care & maintenance.

Use of a teak protector on **natural teak** can help to maintain the original colour of your teak, for longer. We recommend Golden Care® Water-Repellent Shield (Invisible & Transparent) and Golden Care® Teak Colour Protector. The 'Colour Protector' product is not recommended to use on painted teak.

For **painted teak** use only Golden Care® Water-Repellent Shield (Invisible & Transparent).

Investing in a good set of outdoor furniture covers & treating your teak with specialised care products is the first step to maintaining the original colour & condition of your teak.

Teak expands & contracts with changes in temperature & climate. Expanding & shrinking of the timbers can result in hairline cracks in the assembly joints & the grain of the wood itself. This does not affect the structural integrity of the frames construction.

Teak has a high oil content - these natural oils prevent rotting & provide resistance to fungus, termites & wood boring pests. These natural oils in teak may surface as a result of exposure to rain & humidity - these may appear like water stains on your timber and this may leave marks on your cushions. Oil content will vary between pieces, so oil surfacing may occur multiple times before subsiding over a period of several months.

## AVOCA OUTDOOR RANGE

### PRODUCT INFORMATION DETAILED CARE & FAQ'S

#### **My Outdoor Timber Furniture is cracking: Should I be worried?**

Teak will expand & contract causing cracking & is a common occurrence.

The good news is that the timber is probably just “checking,” a normal and natural process that, in most cases, is nothing to worry about.

A check is a visible but minor split or crack that appears parallel to the timber grain. It happens to almost all timber once exposed to the elements. Checking should not affect the structural integrity of your timber furniture and, *as a naturally occurring process, this is not deemed to be a fault or warranty issue.*

#### **Should I be worried about structural integrity?**

Not at all, unless the functionality of your furniture is affected by cracks, there are no issues associated with the natural cracking of wood. If anything, checks and cracks are helpful in reinforcing structural integrity as it helps to release the tensions and pressure of shrinking or expanding wood. You can witness these changes throughout the seasons, as if your furniture is a living, breathing being.

#### **Can I prevent timber cracking?**

While there is no way to completely prevent checking, there are a few things you can do to minimise it.

- **Acclimate your furniture:** Instead of immediately exposing your new furniture to the elements, consider keeping it inside or undercover for the first week. This could be especially useful if you purchase your furniture at the height of summer or the wet season. Gradually acclimating the timber to its new environment will help to minimise any dramatic changes in the moisture content of the timber and should help to minimise the checking.
- **Avoid direct sunlight:** Where possible, avoid leaving your timber furniture exposed to direct sunlight, especially in summer.
- **Cover your outdoor furniture:** When not in use, try to keep your outdoor furniture covered to protect it from direct sunlight and excess moisture.
- **Treat the timber:** Oiling or sealing the timber is a good way to minimise the changes in the moisture content of the timber and minimise the checking process.

At the end of the day, some minor splitting and cracking is inevitable. However, this is part of the charm of timber outdoor furniture. Minor splits and cracks, together with the weathered patina that timber will naturally develop, can add character and charm to your furniture without affecting the structural integrity or shortening the lifespan.

#### **What products can I use to maintain & protect my teak furniture?**

A teak or hardwood cleaner & teak shield applied at the beginning & end of each season will help maintain the original quality of teak & increase surface resistance to moisture, UV, mould & mildew stains. Application of a water based Teak Protector will help maintain the original colour of the teak. We recommend a Golden Care ® Teak Protector & Golden Care ® Hardwood & Teak Shield

Always read & follow the instructions provided with your teak cleaner & treatment products.

## PRODUCT INFORMATION DETAILED CARE & FAQ'S

### How do I clean my teak furniture?

- Use a dry, clean cloth to dust your furniture weekly and help maintain its luster
- Thoroughly clean your furniture twice a year
- Spray off any dirt or debris with a hose and wipe dry. Using your garden hose will help to loosen most dirt and debris that has accumulated in corners and crevices. Adjust the nozzle to a fan pattern (as opposed to a small jet stream), and maintain 20-25cm between the nozzle and the surface of the furniture
- For tougher stains, clean with a warm water and mild dishwashing-soap solution. You can also use a specialised hardwood & teak cleaner. Gently scrub the wood with a soft-bristle brush **always** in the direction of the grain. Rinse thoroughly with water and dry with a soft, clean cloth, making sure all surface water is removed to avoid damage and mildew. Always wipe wood furniture dry after cleaning with water, or any time it gets wet

### How do I clean my cushion covers?

- Use a dry, soft-bristle brush to frequently dust & remove dirt from the fabric before it becomes embedded.
- Hand wash your covers with diluted dishwashing liquid & always rinse thoroughly
- For mould & mildew, soak in a 1:20 solution of bleach to water. Then wash with diluted dishwashing liquid, rinse thoroughly.
- Power washing can be effective - 1200 PSI max - anything more will damage the fabric. Hold the washer approximately 60cm away from the cushion to wash away mould & mildew. Avoiding hitting the zippers directly.

### Teak oil has stained my cushions - what do I do?

Teak oil surfacing from your timber may occur multiple times over a period of several months before subsiding. It is recommended not to store your cushions on the furniture for extended periods of time. Flip cushions on their side - zipper side down - when not in use. Take these precautions until oil surfacing subsides. *As oil surfacing is a naturally occurring process, this is not deemed to be a fault or warranty issue.*

- Again, power washing can be effective - 1200 PSI max - anything more will damage the fabric. Hold the washer approximately 60cm away from the cushion to wash away mould & mildew. Avoiding hitting the zippers directly.
- soak in a 1:20 solution of bleach to water. Then wash with diluted dishwashing liquid, rinse thoroughly. Set-in stains may require professional cleaning