

RHODES OUTDOOR DINING TABLE

PRODUCT INFORMATION GENERAL CARE

ABOUT MY TEAK TABLE

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 can help to maintain the original colour of your teak, for longer. We recommend Golden Care ® Teak Protector.

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 for longer. If you prefer to allow your teak to age naturally, allowing it to be exposed to light, air & rain, then the surface of the teak will gradually change to a soft, silver-grey as the pigments in the surface layer of the wood slowly start to fade away. If natural aging is more your style, then a good outdoor furniture cover & a thorough clean once or twice a year with Golden Care ® Teak Cleaner should suffice.

As part of the natural weathering process, 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 & can happen within a few weeks. With changing weather conditions, cracking will appear & disappear. This does not affect the structural integrity of the frames construction. The use of specialised teak & hardwood care products will not eliminate splits, checks & cracks (which are to be expected) but will help keep them to a minimum.

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

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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