

COTTAGE HOME

Distinctive Cottage Furniture & Farmhouse Tables

PRODUCT CARE GUIDE: *Painted, Stained or Waxed Pieces*

STAINED OR PAINTED PIECES

Surfaces should be cleaned with a damp sponge, and dried with a soft, clean cloth. Waxes and polishes are not recommended or required. Nail polish remover, paint thinner, and other solvents can damage the surface.

All of our wood furniture pieces have triple sealed finishes using water-based, environmentally safe products. The top coat is a low gloss water-soluble varnish that provides a hard, clear protective coat and resist water marks. If a wet glass is left on the surface, it usually will take 2-3 hours to develop a water mark. This water mark will generally disappear after it dries out. We recommend the use of place mats, coasters, and hot pads on all wood furniture to maintain the original finish.

For small dings and scratches on painted surfaces, touch up paint is available from Cottage Home. A single touch up product is not available for stained pieces, as the original stained surfaces are achieved using a combination of stains and glazes. The right color stain from a local hardware can typically be used for small repairs. Significant re-finishing should be left to a professional.

WAXED PIECES

The waxed finish of your furniture is relatively easy to maintain. Spills of cold liquids (juice, sodas, etc.) can be easily wiped up with a damp cloth. This is all you should have to use for the daily maintenance of your pine furniture. Commercial cleaners (Pledge, 409, etc.) should not be used, as they can damage the surface. Use only wax to clean or repair.

Hot/warm items or wet glasses left on the surface for a long time will leave rings. All surfaces must be protected with place mats, coasters, and hot pads to maintain the original finish. If you get a hot ring/mark on your piece that is still very noticeable after re-waxing the entire surface, you may have refer to a more detailed repair.

Rewaxing pieces:

For most repairs, and also for yearly (or semi-annually) maintenance, apply a small, light coat of the wax evenly with a soft cloth and an easy touch. Wipe off the excess immediately before drying to prevent uneven marks. It may be necessary to work small areas at a time, rather than to try and finish a large area all at once. No sanding is needed for this procedure! After you have an even finish, let dry for 5-10 minutes and then buff with a clean, dry, soft cloth. This procedure may have to be repeated until the scratch/ring fades and blends. Wax products are available from Cottage Home or can be found at your local hardware.

hint: It is easier to work with softened wax from the can. Set an open can in the sun for a few minutes to soften it. You should not use cold, hard wax.

Rubbing harder or applying a large chunk of wax will not help and may cause more problems. If you rub the surface too hard, it will result in wax removal. (It sticks back to your cloth.) When doing the above procedure, you are using the new wax as an activator to loosen the existing wax and re-distribute it.

Do not use steel wool when applying wax or buffing! Although the wax container may indicate that you can, we highly discourage the use of steel wool on pine by the novice user. The steel wool closes the pores in the wood and prevents it from absorbing any additional wax or color. In extreme cases, a "00" or "000" grade of steel wool may be used to refinish an entire surface to make severe marks blend evenly. You should not try to use steel wool in only one spot.

RECLAIMED WOOD PIECES

For old wood furniture pieces, cracking, minor shifting, fractures and breadboard movement is considered natural and will vary with temperature and humidity. These types of changes are part of the character of reclaimed wood furniture and will not affect the structural integrity of the piece.