

**Table Care and Protection Advisory Sheet**

**Colour**

The majority of our tables are finished with a stripped pine beeswax furniture polish which is medium brown in colour. This adds colour and nourishment to the natural timber. The wax polish is applied liberally with either a sponge or clean white lint free rag. It can be applied in circular motions and pushed into any minor cracks and splits in the timber. Once covered fully, any excess can be wiped off and then the table left to dry. Once dry, it can then be buffed off with a clean white lint free rag to a sheen of your desire. You can repeat the applications as often as you like. Further applications will give increased hardness and shine.

**Top Coat**

As a finishing coat, we like to add a layer of clear Fiddes Hard wax oil for added protection. The hard wax oil is a clear oil which seals the table top and makes the table top more durable to everyday wear. The oil finish is optional but, we do advise this for future treatment to offer some protection against spillages and staining. The Hard wax oil is not guaranteed to protect the table top from marks and stains.

The oil needs to be applied as a thin coat – if it goes on too thick it will not dry properly. Stir the jar/tin before use and then apply with a clean lint free rag again, running with the grain as you go and being careful not to miss patches (you need to bend down and look across the surface to see any patches missed). As you apply – do wipe off the excess so that it is a thin coating.  You can also use a application brush to do this but, if working on a large area a cloth/rag is sometimes easier. We advise wearing protective latex gloves whilst doing this to avoid getting the oil on your hands. If you do het the oil on your hands, a little white spirit in washing up liquid will clean your hands thoroughly.

The oil will lift and enhance the colour and then needs to be applied periodically – once a month for a few months and then once every six months to maintain the finish and gradually build up several thin layers of oil to offer a good protection against spillages etc.  The oil only really needs to be used on the table top itself as this takes the most wear. Hard wax oil application is also beneficial we find on furniture such as sideboards and coffee tables – furniture tops that are used regularly. Having the oil top coat over time will make your top wipeable with a damp cloth as opposed to furniture polish and a duster. We always recommend using place mats and coasters to protect against water and heat marks.

**Heat and Humidity**

When you take delivery of your new table, we would always recommend that the room n which it is sited is not too warm or not too cold to start with. It is likely with real timbers to experience a little movement – this is perfectly natural. It is best to let your table acclimatise gradually as with any piece of real wood furniture entering a new environment.

**Use**

Upon receipt of your new table, most will try to look after it with exceptional care. This is wise to start with but, we would advise not to cover your table top over with a cloth or table mat until the wood has had time to settle. By covering the top you are not only losing sight of your beautiful new table but, you are stopping air getting the to timber. We highly recommend using protective place mats and coasters and ensuring that the table top is kept clean and dry after use. Over a period of time (up to 2 years) with regular treatment/applications of the Hard wax oil top coat – your table is likely to then offer a good resistance to everyday life. If you table legs, frame and top look a little dry the you can re apply a coat of wax polish to add nourishment.

**Stains/Marking**

We all lead busy lives and accidents do happen. In the event that you encounter a stain, water mark or scratch then do not panic. It’s disappointing but, the beauty with a real wood table is that it can in most cases, be sanded back and re finished. Depending upon how deep the mark or stain is, it will need sanding back and then re waxing and oiling. It is best to sand the whole of the table top as opposed to just the stain area to create an even finish again. It does mean starting the process again but, if you love your table then it’s worth the effort. Those with a more rustic table finish sometimes love the odd mark and stain as it just adds to the character of the wood.

Every table order comes complete with a small care kit for initial care and maintenance and then for future care we do sell the Stripped Pine Wax and Hard wax oil individually.