

Information on Care for Casegoods:

Wood furniture is among the easiest to keep clean. Proper care will help maintain the finish. Cleaning and polishing your furniture should be done regularly to remove dust. Dust attracts moisture, which can soften the surface and damage the finish on the wood.

Furniture Basics:

- Dust regularly.
- Polish twice a year.
- Keep all types of furniture out of direct sunlight.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Avoid placing furniture directly in front of or under windows.
- Keep furniture away from heat and air conditioning vents.
- Change the placement of accessories on surfaces periodically, to avoid permanent marks and impressions.
- Use coasters, placemats, hot plates and tablecloths to protect finish.
- Lift and place items on surfaces. Never slide items across the surface of your furniture.
- Avoid prolonged use of rubber and/or plastic on finishes.

Care Products:

- **Furniture Waxes**
 - Furniture waxes provide long lasting protection and come in a paste or liquid form. Some paste/waxes have color added to help hide minor scratches and light blemishes.
- **Oils**
 - Lemon and pure oil polishes can leave an oily build up behind. This can attract dust and moisture that can harm the finish.
- **Furniture Cleaners**
 - Dusting with furniture cleaner will help to protect the finish by removing dust and dirt that can scratch the surface. Cleaners can also remove waxy build up on a surface.
- **Furniture Polishes**
 - Most furniture polishes that contain an emulsion base can be used regularly on most surfaces. To avoid a cloudy finish make sure to clean and remove any wax from the surface before using a furniture polish.

Additional Hints to Preserving the Beauty of the Finish

- Immediately clean up any spills that contain acidic properties such as ketchup, mustard, alcohol, juice or soda.
- Products with orange or lemon as a base many contain acids that can harm the finish.
- Avoid solvent or alcohol-based products such as commercial household and/or window cleaners.
- Over waxing can cause build up and may damage the finish.
- Avoid using products that may build up, especially those that contain silicones or oils. Silicone-based polishes can build up, discoloring or clouding the surface, and some furniture oils leave a waxy finish on the surface.

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Cleaning and Polishing

Regular Cleaning

To clean wood furniture, use a damp towel with a mild liquid cleanser to remove spills and dirt followed immediately by a dry cloth to completely dry the surface. If your wood furniture is really dirty the process may be repeated using more liquid cleaner, but make sure the surface is completely dry before you place any objects on your furniture, or white rings/blushing could develop on the surface.

Wood furniture needs to be dusted frequently with a clean, soft, dry, lint-free cloth. Remove dust from the surface by rubbing in the direction of the grain. You should dust your furniture weekly, or more often if you notice dust on the surface of the wood.

Polishing

There are three basic types of furniture care products: silicone cleaners, waxes and polishes. It is best to avoid silicone cleaners and waxes. While silicone cleaners create a high degree of shine, silicone seeps into even the highest-quality finishes, creating a barrier that will not accept stain or lacquer. This makes it virtually impossible to re-finish or touch-up your furniture.

Waxes should be avoided because their regular use may result in a build-up of wax film on the surface of the furniture. This build-up could actually attract dirt, smoke and other pollutants in the air, resulting in smudges and streaks. Also, many waxes contain grit that can permanently damage furniture surfaces if used improperly.

Professional furniture polishes contain detergents, emulsifiers and mineral oil. The detergents clean dirt from the furniture, the emulsifiers give the polish body to clean and last longer and mineral oil is left behind as a barrier to dirt and moisture. These products contain no grit to harm the finish, no wax to build up and no silicone to act as a barrier for touch-up and refinishing. Also, professional furniture polishes contain fewer sugars, which can build up and attract dirt and other air-borne pollutants.

Polish your furniture approximately every six months, using a clean, soft, lint-free cloth and rubbing the polish in the direction of the grain.

Notes:

Guardsmen Furniture Polish has been used successfully with no negative effects on our products. It can be found at most supermarkets, home improvement centers and some furniture stores. Neither Ashley Furniture Industries, Inc. nor Guardsmen Furniture polish producers have offered, or received, any compensation or consideration for the promotion of this product.

Always read and follow the manufactures directions for use with any product and test on an inconspicuous area. If any change occurs, do not use the product.

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