

THE NATURE OF SOLID WOOD AND ITS ENVIRONMENT

Hard wood trees grow prolifically in the U. S., reaching maturity at about 80 years, at which time they often begin second lives as home furnishings that will be cherished for generations.

Hardwoods are characterized by an infinite variety of grains and distinctive textures. As no two trees ever grow exactly the same, so no two pieces of solid wood furniture will look exactly the same. This is true even though the construction and finishing of every piece is identical.

Trees grow limbs that fall off as the tree matures, leaving knots in the wood. These natural markings have absolutely no effect on the wood's durability and stability.

With this in mind, our craftsmen strive to bring out the natural beauty and character of the solid wood they use in the construction of each piece they build.

Care in controlling the furniture's environment will help minimize the minor cracking and warping that is a natural part of the wood's character.

Because most hardwoods are open-grained, solid wood furniture will expand and contract with changes in humidity and temperature, even after protective finishes have been applied. For example, dining tables may have a small crack between the table halves in the center of the table when the humidity is too high (above 50%), or they may have a small crack between the table halves at the edges when the humidity is too low (below 35%). This is perfectly normal as moisture is absorbed through the end grains of wood more quickly than through the edge grains, causing more movement at the edges of the table than at the center. You may notice these changes more during the changing of seasons, especially if the house is not humidity-controlled.

Indoor humidity should be kept between 35%-50% to minimize these effects. A humidity gauge can be purchased at most hardware stores to enable the humidity range to be kept in the proper range.

Excessive continued exposure to direct sunlight can cause damage to both the finish and the wood itself.

With proper care your furniture can provide years of pleasure for your family. Here are some tips to help you get the most from your Amish-crafted furniture.

FURNITURE CARE

- ◆ **Keep furniture out of continued exposure to direct sunlight.**
- ◆ **Keep furniture away from cooling sources and heat sources such as furnace ducts, radiators, and fireplaces.**
- ◆ **Keep humidity between 35%-50% to minimize expansion and contraction of furniture.**
- ◆ **Use coasters, place mats, and trivets with non-scratching bottoms underneath glasses and serving dishes placed on your furniture.**
- ◆ **Avoid storing furniture in a basement, attic, or garage if it is ever necessary to store it.**
- ◆ **Store table leaves in or close to the table to maintain consistent environmental conditions.**
- ◆ **If unable to store leaves in the table, store leaves horizontally (in a prone position), not vertically, to avoid warping.**
*****Please note: If you have a table with four or more leaves and have opted to keep your table fully extended with all the leaves inserted, you must have a support leg(s) to avoid warping. Please advise us if you intend on leaving all the leaves inserted in your table.*****
- ◆ **Avoid placing objects that could scratch the wood directly onto your furniture.**
- ◆ **Promptly wipe up spills to avoid potential problems.**
- ◆ **Dust your furniture often and carefully with a soft cloth to remove abrasive dust particles.**
- ◆ **Periodically clean your furniture using mild non-alkaline soap, water, and a soft sponge or cloth.**

Fingerprints, cooking fumes, smoking residue, etc., will naturally accumulate on any finished surface. None of these contaminants will harm the finish, but they should be periodically removed to restore the finish to its original luster. Just wipe the surface with a cloth dampened with a mild detergent solution or with non-wax containing polish like Guardsman. Most commercially available furniture cleansers contain potentially harmful chemicals that may affect the finish on your hardwood furniture. Avoid the use of ammonia-based products and silicone oils as they are known to damage hardwood furniture finishes.

Amish Market, LLC

TESTED. PROVEN. TRUSTED!

QUALITY WOOD FINISHING!

A REVIEW OF THE TESTING DONE TO THE FINISH
USED ON ALL OF **Amish Market's** FURNITURE.

FINISH PERFORMANCE

<u>SPILL RESISTANCE</u>	<u>TEST DURATION</u>	<u>EFFECTS</u>
Acetone	2 Min. Under Glass	NO EFFECT!
Alcohol 100 Proof	1 HR	NO EFFECT!
Coffee/Tea	24 HR	NO EFFECT!
Cooking Fat	24 HR	NO EFFECT!
Grape Juice	24 HR	NO EFFECT!
Ketchup	24 HR	NO EFFECT!
Lemon Juice	24 HR	NO EFFECT!
Margarine	24 HR	NO EFFECT!
Mayonnaise	24 HR	NO EFFECT!
Milk/Cream	24 HR	NO EFFECT!
Mustard	24 HR	NO EFFECT!
Oil-Based Paint	24 HR	NO EFFECT!
Olive Oil	24 HR	NO EFFECT!
Orange Juice	24 HR	NO EFFECT!
Red Ink	24 HR	NO EFFECT!
Turpentine	24 HR	NO EFFECT!
Vinegar	24 HR	NO EFFECT!
VM & P Naphtha	24 HR	NO EFFECT!
Water	24 HR	NO EFFECT!
<u>SOLVENT RESISTANCE</u>		
MEK (200 Double Rubs)	N/A	NO EFFECT!
<u>HEAT RESISTANCE</u>		
185 Degrees F (Dry/Wet)	15 minutes	NO EFFECT!
(Finish exposed to a 1000 gram weight w/ & w/o moisture present.)		