

Preserving Furniture



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- Wood finishes, stains and some paints can darken or fade from high light levels; place or store furniture in dim areas
- Because wood is a porous material, it easily takes in water in high humidity and contracts in a dry environment
- Keep furnishings in a stable environment to avoid damage; keep away from fireplaces, baseboard heaters and heat vents

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- A main causes of damage to furniture is improper handling; always check for damage or loose joints before moving
- Lift furniture from the strongest points when moving



Cleaning Furniture

- Maintain the original finishes on their furniture and antiques whenever possible
- A soft cloth, soft brush or a vacuum cleaner with a soft brush attachment can be used to remove dust
- Wet cleaning with a damp cloth is an option for furniture made after WWI; furniture prior to WWI should be dusted with a dry cloth or one with odourless paint thinner in it; never wet clean unfinished wood

Cleaning Furniture

- After the surface is completely dry, a micro-crystalline wax (purchased from specialty stores) can be applied with a soft cloth or brush once a year
- Many popular commercial cleaning products contain tung oil or silicone which have proven to age poorly or react with the finish; avoid if possible
- If insects infest a piece of furniture, isolate it, wrap it in plastic and find a conservator