

Your Guide to Preserving Historic Teak

Care & Maintenance for Reclaimed Madras Teak from Goodluck Timbers

You have chosen a remarkable material. Reclaimed Madras Teak is more than just wood; it is a piece of history, imbued with a character and stability that only decades of natural seasoning can provide.

Your role is not merely one of maintenance, but of stewardship. This guide will help you honor the legacy of this exceptional timber.

The Restorer's Touch: Gentle Cleaning

Aged wood requires a gentle hand. This cleaning method is safe for revealing the timber's true character without causing harm.

- **Dust First:** Begin by wiping the wood with a soft, dry cloth to remove any loose surface dust.
- **Use a Mild Solution:** Mix a very small amount of pH-neutral soap with water.
- **Damp, Not Wet:** Use a soft, lint-free cloth, dampened with the solution and wrung out thoroughly. Gently wipe the surface, always following the direction of the grain.
- **Rinse with Care:** Use a second cloth dampened with only clean water to wipe away any soap residue.
- **Dry Immediately:** With a final dry, soft cloth, gently buff the surface dry. Never let water stand on the wood.

Honoring Its Character: The Two Finishes

Reclaimed teak offers a choice: do you preserve its raw, historic patina, or revive its deeper, richer tones?

Path A: The Purist's Finish (Preserving the Patina)

This approach celebrates the wood's journey, maintaining the unique silver-grey and deep brown patina it has earned over a lifetime.

- **The Goal:** Protect the wood without altering its aged appearance.
- **The Method:** Once clean and dry, leave the wood as is. Its natural density provides incredible resilience. For added protection against spills, you can apply a clear, water-based, **matte** sealer. This will protect the surface invisibly, without adding any shine or color.

Path B: The Revival Finish (Enhancing the Richness)

This approach gently awakens the deeper, warmer tones of the teak while still retaining its aged character.

- **The Goal:** Bring out the wood's natural luster and color depth.
- **The Method:** The key is to avoid aggressive sanding. If needed, a *very* light hand-sanding with ultra-fine (320-grit or higher) sandpaper can smooth the surface. Then, apply a high-quality teak sealer. This will darken the wood to a rich brown, beautifully highlighting the grain's complexity.

The Ultimate Mistake to Avoid: Over-Restoration

The history of this wood is its most valuable asset. Do not try to make it look brand new.

Aggressive sanding, harsh chemical strippers, and pressure washers will irrevocably destroy the patina and character that makes this wood so special. You will not be restoring it; you will be erasing its story.

Always choose the most gentle method first.

From all of us at **Goodluck Timbers**, we thank you for giving this historic timber a new chapter. For any further questions, you know who to call.