

Soap Treated Surfaces

Generally

Soap treated wood is very similar to untreated wood in terms of both look and feel. Soap treated wood is renowned for its exceedingly beautiful patina evolved over time. When treated with soap, the wood will become increasingly resistant to dirt over time, as its surface will thicken through daily use and become saturated when regularly washed with soap flakes.

Daily Cleaning

Wipe surfaces with a soft, dry cloth. For daily cleaning, use a cloth firmly wrung in lukewarm water. When encountering tough stains, you should add soap flakes (¼ dl) to the water (3 litres). In addition to the daily cleaning, soap treated wood should be treated 1-2 times a year or whenever necessary according to the directions below.

Maintenance

In order to maintain your soap treated wooden furniture, it is imperative that you use only natural/white soap flakes. Many producers add chemicals, which may cause a reacting because of acid inherent to natural products like oak wood and leather. In order to avoid such mishaps, you should adhere to the following directions:

- ⚠ **Use only white/natural soap flakes**
- ✗ **NEVER use brown soap flakes**
- ✗ **NEVER use soap flakes containing bleach**
- ✗ **NEVER use soap flakes containing perfume**

If in doubt, choose white, organic soap flakes that are allergy tested. You should be able to buy these in most common supermarkets and DIY's.

To obtain the best result, you should dissolve the soap flakes in water that is boiled and then cooled to room temperature. Use ¼ dl soap flakes in 1 litres of water. If there are stains on the wooden surfaces, try to remove them by scrubbing them with a soft sponge dipped in soapy water. Dip a clean, soft sponge in what is left of the soapy water and wipe

all surfaces in the grains' longitudinal direction. Then wipe all surfaces with a soft, dry cloth. Leave the wooden furniture to dry off for approx. 2 hours before use. Repeat as and when required.

As an alternative to regular soap flakes, Fredericia recommends Leather Master Natural Soap Protector. This soap solution is ready for use and you work it into the surface in exactly the same way you would regular soapy water.

If the grains 'rise', you can gently sand the surface with sandpaper (240 grit). Sand the surface only once, and always remember to work in the wood grains' longitudinal direction. After sanding, wipe the surface with a dry, soft cloth in order to remove any remaining dust.

⚠ **Washing wooden furniture with soap flakes will make the wood dirt-resistant. However, excessive use of soap flakes can also destroy the wood fibre and its natural colour. Oak is particularly vulnerable to overuse of soap, as it contains much tannic acid. Oak washed in soap flakes too frequently can turn lack-lustre and grey or brown.**

✗ **NEVER use washing-up liquid, yellow soap, linseed oil or detergents containing iron. You should never use metal object (steel or iron) as these will interact with the tannic acid in the oak wood and may result in permanent black stains.**

