

MAINTENANCE & CARE GUIDE

 carlhansen.com/en/maintenance-and-care

Furniture from Carl Hansen & Søn is designed and manufactured to last for generations. To ensure the greatest possible enjoyment from your furniture and the longest lifespan, it is important that it is properly looked after. When solid wood furniture is correctly maintained and exposed to daylight, over the years the wood will acquire a beautiful patina. As wood is a living natural product, color variations and knots as well as lines in the finished furniture may occur.

Solid wood is a living material that is affected by daylight, temperature and humidity. The ideal relative humidity for solid wood tables is between 30% and 60%.

Solid wood furniture should not be placed too close to heat sources such as wood-burning stoves or radiators.

Solid wood is also affected and dried by direct sunlight. Both factors contribute to very low relative humidity which may cause cracks and should therefore be avoided. As daylight matures the wood, please keep in mind that permanently placed items on solid wood, such as vases and candlesticks can cause undesirable color differences which will subsequently be difficult to remove.

Regularly care and maintenance of soap-treated solid wood is both easy and effective. For the best results, treat the product with soap before starting to use it. Hereafter we recommend you to treat it every four to six weeks, depending on the positioning of the furniture and its use. Regular treatment will improve the wood's natural durability.

When treating oak furniture with soap, the soap mixture must not be too concentrated as the soap may react with the tannin in the wood and turn it a dark color.

Wood soap and sanding sponges can be purchased from your nearest Carl Hansen & Søn dealer.

Before applying the wood soap, lightly sand the wood surface with a sanding sponge or very fine sandpaper (grade 180 or 240).

Shake the bottle of soap well before use and apply the soap with a dry cloth/sponge following the direction of the wood grains.

When treating wood furniture with soap, it is important to apply the soap on all surfaces to prevent uneven drying, as the uneven release of moisture from the wood can result in unnecessary cracks and warping of the furniture.

Hereafter wait for about 10 minutes.

Then wipe it off with a clean sponge or cloth tightly wrung out with hot water to remove any excess soap.

Never use dish soap.

Allow the furniture to dry.

After the soap treatment, there is no need to use additional oil or wax.

It is possible that the wood fibers rise slightly after the first few soap treatments. If so, use a sanding sponge or fine sandpaper (grade 180 or 240) to rub down the entire piece of furniture. Always sand in the direction of the grains. After sanding the furniture must be given a second soap treatment.

For everyday care, use a clean, soft cloth wrung out with lukewarm water. Do not use any types of cleaning agents, chemicals or steel wool on the furniture

maintenance guide - soap

Regular care and maintenance of oil-treated wood furniture is easy and very effective in the long term. For best results, we recommend you to treat your furniture with oil two to four times a year or according to need depending on its positioning and use.

Oil and sanding sponges can be purchased from your nearest Carl Hansen & Søn dealer.

Clean the entire furniture thoroughly with a clean cloth tightly wrung out with clean hot water. Then leave the furniture to dry.

Before applying the oil, lightly sand the wood surface with a sanding sponge or fine sandpaper (grade 180 or 240). Apply the oil using a clean white cloth or a sponge. Do not pour the oil directly onto the wood.

Apply the oil in the direction of the grains in a thin, even layer. It is important to treat the entire surface of the furniture.

During the dry season (winter), cross-cut edge ends should be treated more frequently to avoid drying and subsequent cracking.

Allow the oil to dry for about two hours, and then remove any excess oil with a clean dry cloth.

If the furniture has any scratches, these can be removed by gently sanding the wood. It is important to sand the wood in the direction of the grains using a sanding sponge or fine sandpaper (grade 240). After sanding, always wipe the furniture with a clean, dry cloth to remove residual dust. Then oil the wood as described above.

The uneven release of moisture from the wood may cause unnecessary cracks and warping of the furniture, which is why we recommend the same treatment for both the top and underside of the furniture. For everyday cleaning, use a soft cloth wrung out with clean hot water. Do not use any cleaning agents or chemicals on the furniture.

CAUTION! Please note that cloths or sponges which have been used to oil the furniture can ignite spontaneously, which is why they must always be kept in an airtight metal or glass container. This also applies if the cloth is being disposed of.

MAINTENANCE GUIDE - OIL

Regularly maintaining lacquered surfaces is easy and straightforward. For everyday cleaning, wipe the surfaces with a soft cloth wrung out with clean lukewarm water. As the lacquer seals the surface of the wood, the furniture will not be affected by daylight as soap or oil-treated furniture.

However, the furniture will still darken with time, and we recommend that you exercise care when positioning dishes, candlesticks, etc. on the surface.

We advise against the use of cleaning agents or other forms of chemicals on the wood.

Everyday cleaning of glass requires no more than wiping the surface with clean water. It is recommended that you use a sponge or a soft, fluff-free cloth. Most dirt can be removed by slightly wiping the surface. Make sure to clean the entire surface, not just selected areas.

Ordinary glass cleaner can be used to remove any grease marks (fingerprints, etc.). Do not use scouring agents, corrosive, acidic or alkaline cleaning agents, as these can attack the surface of the glass and cause scratches.

Excess water can be removed with a sponge or cloth. The glass can then be polished dry with a microfiber cloth.

If the glass surface is allowed to remain wet for longer periods of time, limescale residues may form. Therefore, it is best to wipe up any liquids as quickly as possible.

Laminate usually requires no special maintenance. The furniture can easily be cleaned on a daily basis using laminate cleaner. Laminate cleaner can be purchased from your nearest Carl Hansen & Søn dealer.

The following is recommended for daily cleaning:

Spray laminate cleaner directly onto the surface in a thin, even layer.

Allow the product to work a few minutes.

Then wipe the entire surface with a damp cloth.

Finally, dry the furniture with a clean dry cloth.

If the laminate cleaner is not effective at removing difficult marks, it is recommended that you pour concentrated cleaning agent or washing-up liquid directly onto the area before wiping it with a damp cloth.

Then wash the furniture repeatedly with clean water.

If you use an aggressive cleaning agent, it is a good idea to test it on a less conspicuous area as it may cause the surface to discolor. After cleaning, the surface should be washed several times with clean water.

Certain chemicals, strongly colored fruit juices, etc. can discolor the surface if they are left for long periods of time, so they should be removed as quickly as possible. The easiest way to remove lines from marker pens is with alcohol, while pencil marks should be removed with an eraser.

It is not recommended to use abrasive materials such as steel wool, scouring creams, etc.

Brown soap and soap flakes are also unsuitable for cleaning laminates as they leave a film which makes the surface mat. However, this film can be removed with a universal cleaning agent dissolved in warm water.

Maintenance guide - laminate

The woven paper cord seats seen in many of Hans J. Wegner's chairs, for example the Wishbone Chair, CH46 chair and CH44 lounge chair, usually require no or very little maintenance, as the strong paper cord is designed to last for years.

If you want to freshen up the seat, you can wipe it using a cloth tightly wrung out with a neutral colorless soap solution. However, it is advisable not to do this too often, as it can wear the paper cord unnecessarily.

Carl Hansen & Søn's paper cord is treated with a thin layer of wax which helps to prevent stains. Discoloration of the paper cord may, however, result from spillages of strong liquids, for example red wine, fruit juice or strongly colored food, on the seat.

If you are unlucky, the best thing to do is to remove as much of the fluid as possible with a tightly wrung-out soft cloth. Be careful not to rub the liquid into the paper cord, but just carefully blot the affected area. Never use washing-up liquid on wicker.

Like other furniture, the white woven and natural paper cord seats, can be discolored by strongly dyed fabrics, for example a new pair of jeans. If you want to prevent this from happening, it is recommended that you use a cushion on the seat. However, the natural material is designed to patinate beautifully and naturally over time.

Paper cord is a natural, comfortable and durable material. It lasts for many years but can be replaced or repaired by a skilled craftsman if necessary.

Cleaning and maintaining upholstered furniture regularly is important to retain the appearance of the fabric and to prolong its lifespan. Over time, dust and dirt can cause furnishing fabrics to change color and exacerbate wear.

An accumulation of dust and dirt also contributes to a poor indoor climate, while impairing the fire-retardant properties of the upholstery material. It is therefore important to regularly maintain and clean your upholstered furniture.

GENERAL CLEANING

We recommend that you vacuum upholstered furniture often (possibly at half power), ideally every week.

Upholstery fabrics made of polyurethane should be wiped with a clean dry or damp cloth or vacuumed with a soft brush.

STAIN REMOVAL

If you are unlucky, it is important to do what you can to remove the stain immediately.

Marks from thick or solid substances (for example wax and chewing gum) should be scraped off as much as possible with a blunt knife or spatula before further treatment. A dried stain can be vacuumed for loose particles before further treatment.

In the case of spills, blot the liquid with an absorbent clean cloth before further cleaning.

Marks which do not contain fat should initially be removed by carefully dabbing them with a clean, non-fluffy cloth or a sponge wrung out with clean warm water. Remove the stain working from the outer edge and in towards the center. Grease stains can be removed with suitable stain removers. We always recommend that you test your upholstery fabric cleaner on an inconspicuous area before using it on the main part of the upholstery.

Do not use excessive force when rubbing the fabric, as this can damage the fabric and cause loss of color.

To avoid discolorations to the microfibers in the upholstery fabric, it is recommended that you dry the material with a hair-dryer after cleaning. It is important that the upholstery fabric is completely dry before you start using the furniture again.

Be careful with the use of solvents, as these can dissolve underlying upholstery materials. Furthermore, do not use undiluted detergents, bleaching agents, ammonia and soaps intended for hard surfaces on upholstery fabrics.

CARING FOR LOOSE CUSHIONS

If your furniture has loose cushions, it is a good idea to turn the cushions around periodically to ensure they are exposed to uniform wear.

Down-filled cushions should be fluffed and plumped up regularly (depending on usage) to ensure that the down is equally distributed inside the cushion to maintain the shape of the cushion.

CLEANING AND IMPREGNATION

In general, furniture exposed to normal commercial use should be cleaned two or three times a year. Furniture in private homes do not need to be cleaned as often.

Upholstery fabrics made of cotton are often impregnated. However, the impregnation is not permanent and wears off as the furniture is used and during cleaning, which is why it is recommended to re-impregnate the fabric after the furniture is cleaned.

We do not recommend that wool upholstery fabrics be impregnated as wool is naturally dirt-resistant.

Active and regular care removes dirt before it accumulates in the upholstery fabric and damages the fibers. Proper maintenance and regular cleaning can significantly extend the lifespan of your furniture.

You are very welcome to contact your nearest Carl Hansen & Søn dealer about the possibility of purchasing an impregnation product for home use. Remember to take careful note of the recommended application and to follow the instructions carefully.

If possible, we recommend that you do not place leather furniture in direct sunlight or close to heat sources such as radiators or wood-burning stoves. Regularly vacuum your leather furniture with a soft brush and avoid using detergents and sharp implements.

Carl Hansen & Søn uses the following leathers: SIF, Thor, Loke and saddle leather. Read more about maintaining and cleaning the different types of leather below.

SIF is an aniline leather. Aniline leather is made of raw hides of the highest quality. The leather has a completely natural bare surface, where all the natural markings are visible, for example insect marks.

This highlights the unique character of the leather while giving this exclusive material a rustic charm. The leather's natural grain structure is preserved, which means that it 'breathes' and therefore provides optimum sitting comfort. Over time, daylight and usage gives the leather its own unique character and a beautiful patina.

Thor is a semi-aniline leather which has been given a light protective top coat. The treatment makes the leather more robust, easier to maintain and ensures good wearing qualities.

The leather has the same natural look as aniline leather and is very comfortable.

CLEANING SIF AND THOR LEATHERS

If thorough cleaning is necessary, we recommend using a solution of boiled water and mild natural good-quality soap flakes for furniture.

1. Use 50 ml of soap flakes for each liter of water. Whisk the soap flakes in hot water until they are completely dissolved.
2. Once the water reach room temperature work the lather into the leather with a soft cloth. It is important that you only use the lather from the solution and that you do not soak the leather.
3. Once the furniture is dry, polish the leather with a soft cotton cloth.

Saddle leather has the same properties as SIF and is maintained in the same way.

Loke is corrected-grain pigmented leather with a uniform surface which has been treated to make the leather extremely hard-wearing. Pigmented leather is soft and comfortable and has only a few visible natural markings. It is easy to maintain, practical and strong as long as it is treated properly.

For everyday care and cleaning, we recommend using a clean soft cloth wrung out with lukewarm water.

CLEANING:

Items made of stainless steel, chrome or lacquered steel must be wiped/cleaned with soapy water and a tightly wrung-out cloth.

Small scratches in stainless steel can be removed with a fine sanding sponge which is suitable for using on metal. Always remember to follow the direction in which the steel has been ground.