

Soap Treated Surfaces

Generally

Soap treated wood is a lot like untreated wood, characterized by the beautiful patina, which is created over time. As the years pass, the wood will become increasingly resilient to dirt as the surfaces turn 'greasy' from daily use and regular maintenance with soap flakes.

Daily Cleaning

Wipe the surface with a dry, soft cloth. Solid wood cannot tolerate large quantities of water, and if you spill any liquids, the furniture must immediately be wiped dry in order to avoid stains and miscolouring of the surface. For regular cleaning, use a cloth firmly wrung in lukewarm water. If the surfaces are particularly dirty, you can add soap flakes to the water. Never soak the wood, as too much water may cause damage to the surface.

Maintenance

Soap treated surfaces are maintained with water and white/natural soap flakes once or twice annually or as required, according to the description below.

Δ Always use white, natural and organic soap flakes

Δ NEVER use brown soap flakes

Δ NEVER use soap flakes containing bleach

In order to obtain the best result, you should use boiled water cooled to room temperature. Use ¼ dl soap flakes with 1 litre of water. The

soap flakes must be completely dissolved. Never pour the soap solution directly onto the furniture.

Dampen a soft sponge with soapy water, and work the soap solution into the surface using long strokes in the direction of the wood grain. Make sure not to soak the surface as large quantities of water may cause the wood to crack or skew. Then wipe any excess soap off with a soft, dry cloth and leave to dry for approx. two hours before use. Repeat as required.

As an alternative to regular soap flakes, Fredericia recommends using Leather Masters Natural Soap Protector – a ready-mixed soap solution, which is worked into the surface in the same way as a regular soapy water solution.

If the wood fibres rise, you can sand the surface gently with sandpaper, grain 240. When completely dry, gently wipe the sandpaper in the direction of the wood grain once. Then wipe the surface with a dry cloth to remove any dust particles.

Δ Using soap will make the furniture resilient to dirt. However, extensive use of water and soap flakes may ruin the wood fibres and its natural colour. Pay particular attention to oak wood, as it is highly susceptible to miscolouring due to its high content of tannic acid. If furniture made from oak wood is washed with soap and water too frequently, the wood may lose its glow and become miscoloured, brown or grey.

Δ NEVER use washing-up liquid, brown soap, linseed oil or detergents containing iron. Objects of steel and iron should be kept off oak wood surfaces as these metals react to the tannic acid in the wood and may cause permanent black stains.

