

FINE FURNITURE CARE GUIDE

The following general recommendations are valid for most premier quality wood furniture.

Always refer first to the specific care instructions provided by the manufacturer at the time of purchase, and save the literature provided for future reference so that you can care for your furniture properly. Always test cleaning/polishing products in an inconspicuous location before using on visible areas.

Follow the specific manufacturer's care instructions carefully to extend the life of your furniture and to avoid affecting any applicable warranties.

▮ **Caring for fine furniture is much simpler than most people realize.** In most cases, dusting regularly with a clean, soft, lint-free cloth is sufficient. Some manufacturers (including Stickley) recommend using a slightly dampened cloth for cleaning wood and leather — if this is what your manufacturer suggests, be sure to dry the surface thoroughly after cleaning.

Check the manufacturer's care instructions, but in general, silicone-based polishes are usually not the best choice for fine finishes. The most frequent problems associated with silicone polishes are over-polishing, combining them with other polishes, and future restoration issues. We do not recommend using oil soaps for frequent cleaning of new furniture. Cared for correctly, your new furniture should not accumulate enough grease and dirt to require the need for oil soaps.

▮ **Objects should be lifted rather than dragged across a finished surface.** Expect some small surface scratches to appear on some finishes through normal use. Furniture wax can minimize this occurrence in many cases, but be sure to check the furniture manufacturer's care instructions before using any product.

▮ **Avoid exposing your furniture to strong sunlight.** Unfiltered ultraviolet (UV) rays will discolor and damage wood, finishes, fabrics, leather and rugs.

▮ **Controlling relative humidity and temperature is important** to the long-term life of fine wood furniture, leather and upholstery. If an atmospheric change is too drastic, or humidity and temperature levels too extreme one way or the other, your furniture can be damaged.

▮ **Nail polish remover, hair spray, perfume and potpourri** (and any other products that contain solvents) **can damage wood and leather finishes.** Do not place these products directly on a wood or leather surface, and avoid using them near any wood or leather furniture.

▮ **Rubber, cork, vinyl or plastic products can damage some finishes.** Use caution when placing telephones, clocks and radios on a finished surface, as most have rubber or plastic pads. Avoid placing vinyl placemats, coasters or tablecloths directly on a wood surface without checking the manufacturer's guidelines. To prevent damage, use a protective layer (cotton, linen or felt cloth) between the object and the finish.

▮ **Store table leaves flat, apron side up, in a controlled environment** to prevent warping or cracking. We recommend investing in table leaf storage bags.

▮ **Avoid exposing the furniture finish to items creating extreme heat, cold or moisture.** Use protective padding under these items as recommended by the furniture manufacturer.