

## OAK INFORMATION GUIDE

### NATURAL OAK

Solid oak is a natural timber product and changes in climate can affect the oak stability. Humidity and heat can cause the oak to absorb or lose moisture. Heat can expand the oak whereas the cold will contract and can result in the oak 'warping' or 'cupping'.

**Note:** Untreated oak can have small knotting and splitting that require filling. StairFurb oak baserails are usually supplied over size to allow any split ends to be cut away on site, but handrails are prepared and must be cut to the exact length. All products are quality inspected prior to being dispatched and should be thoroughly checked on delivery. StairFurb can not be responsible for splitting or knotting which occurs after the products have been delivered, as it is the customer's responsibility to treat and seal the wood as soon as possible.

### PREPARING OAK

Solid untreated oak may require a light sanding prior to treatment. This can be carried out using standard sand paper. 120-240 grit paper should be used and sand in the direction of the grain. (Never sand against the grain as this will scour the oak and will show when treatment is applied) For a super smooth polished finish pre sand up to 400-600 grit sanding in stages (120, 240, 400, 600 grit) For smooth lacquer finishing, a very light sanding in between each coat with 400-600 grit should be applied.

### SEALING OAK

Solid oak should be sealed as soon as possible to prevent the oak from absorbing moisture & causing movement (as mentioned above). After installing the oak it should be re-treated with your chosen finish/colour as often as required to ensure maximum protection and life span. A coat should be applied immediately after installation and then every 3 months or so. Do not allow the oak to dry out.

### TREATMENTS

Oak treatment used is largely personal preference, but we suggest either using Briwax wax treatment or a Danish, Tung or Teak oil from Rustin's. For Satin Oil the Osmo brand wood oil is suggested.

**Note:** wood dye and stain will not seal the oak, therefore a top coat of wax/oil/lacquer

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## Lacquered Oak

Lacquered oak is a satin finish with a sheen but not glossy. The polyurethane lacquer gives a good protection and seals the oak. Lacquer is waterproof and helps prevent liquid penetration. Spillages on the oak should be dealt with promptly to prevent leaving marks.

**Care:** Dusting your lacquered oak is best carried out with a soft cloth. Do not use any strong sprays/ polishes as this can remove the lacquer coating. If the oak is dirty and you cannot remove by dusting, use a damp cloth. Do not leave any excess water and make sure to dry off the Oak after you have finished cleaning.

## Oiled Oak

Oiled Oak is a beautiful finish and brings out the lovely character and grain detail of the oak. Oiled oak should have several coats to protect from moisture and UV. Oil is usable indoors and outdoors and is a good water proofer. Oil penetrates deep into the oak to give maximum protection and repairs are easily made by simply oiling the damaged area. Oiled Oak finishing is very common, very easy and ideal for shelving, mantels and surrounds.

**Care:** Oiled oak needs to be protected from heat, sunlight and liquids. Do not place hot objects directly on to the oiled oak. Spillages on the oak should be dealt with promptly to prevent leaving marks. Do not use strong/industrial cleaning products on the oak. If the oak is exposed to heat/sunlight for long periods it may need to be re-oiled more often to prevent drying out. If your oak is exposed to heat, cold, damp or dry air for periods of time you may need to re-oil on a regular basis, otherwise 2-3 times a year is normal.

**Re-Oiling your Oak:** If the oak gets too dry apply more oil. To Oil, Lightly sand the surface along the wood grain with fine sand paper (400-600 Grit). Apply the oil with a dry clean cloth. Make sure to apply the oil evenly over the surface and go with the grain, wipe off the excess then leave until dry (4-8 hours). Then repeat for each coat required. Finally buff the oak with a new dry cloth to bring up the grain.

**NOTE:** Use a lint free cloth to buff the oak. Oil can take a long time to dry depending on room conditions.

## Waxed Oak

Waxed oak will absorb the elements from its surroundings. Wax will seal and protect the oak and enhance the grain detail, buffing will add a nice sheen/gloss effect to the oak. The same applies with heat, dark rings can be left if a hot item is placed directly on to the waxed oak furniture, we recommend using mats where possible. Spillages on the oak should be dealt with promptly to prevent leaving marks.

**Care:** Dusting your Oak is best carried out with a soft cloth . Do not use any strong sprays/ polishes as this could get under the wax layer and cause cracks to appear. If the oak is dirty and you cannot remove by dusting, use a damp cloth, this also helps prevent the dust re-settling on the oak. Do not leave any excess water and make sure to dry off the oak after you have finished cleaning. Apply wax to your oak 2-4 year and this will help maintain the grain and keep the oak in pristine condition.

**Re- waxing Oak:** Your new oak will need to be re-waxed especially in its first few years in your home. Waxing helps protect the grain, helps the wood resist moisture which causes cracks & splits. Waxing the oak regularly will keep the oak in its best possible condition. This can be done with most oak furniture waxes. When waxing make sure to go with the grain and not against it. Apply the wax with a clean soft cloth. . Leave each coat to dry for around 1-3 hours before buffing the oak to a shine. Repeat this for each coat required.

**NOTE:** Always use a sample piece of wood to test the colour of the DRIED wax before applying to your oak.

## AMERICAN OAK:

American White Oak comes from the Appalachian Mountains in North America. The heartwood varies colour from light tan or pale yellow-brown to dark/pale brown and can have a pinkish tint. The wood has a straight long grain and has medium texture. The Oak can have swirls, burls and a tiger-ray flake pattern. The sapwood is white to light brown and varies in size.

Properties - The oak planes, turns, bores, sands, stains and polishes well.

Stability: American White Oak is Kiln-Dried up to 15 years and is very stable.