

Contemporary Furniture

With good care and maintenance regimes, your furniture will remain in good condition. The key to maintenance and cleaning is to act quickly with any remedial action. We have detailed advice below, but please don't hesitate to contact sales@protocoluk.com if you require additional information.

Common causes of damage to Indoor furniture	Common causes of damage to Outdoor furniture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tables being lifted by their tops leaving the base unsupported causing fixing plates to come away • Furniture being dragged across uneven floor • Wooden furniture being subjected to abrupt fluctuations in temperature or excessive levels of humidity • Wooden table tops with inlays or metal edging being damaged by rough handling • Chairs falling off tables usually during floor-cleaning • Screws coming loose • Abrasive cleaning cloths or abrasive cleaning compounds scratching surfaces • Chairs (and tables) being stacked when they are not designed to be stacked • Table tops being etched by spills of acidic liquids, particularly wine. • Furniture being cleaned with aggressive sanitiser sprays (some of which can damage surfaces) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of protection causing ageing • Indoor furniture being used outdoors • Salt in the air corroding metal, particularly in coastal environments or on board ships • Sunlight causing colour bleaching, particularly vibrant colours • Furniture being blown over • Water being left to sit on furniture, causing stains • Footrests on stools being used as ladders, causing them to bend or snap

Wood and Wood Veneers

All contract furniture made of wood has either a lacquer or a seal applied to it. They both protect the wood but have different appearances. A seal soaks into the wood, lacquers form a hard layer on top of the wood. The colour of timber will tend to naturally change over time and is accelerated through exposure to the elements, although again the type of finish will have an effect on this (a lacquered surface tends to change colour less).

Common causes of damage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surfaces damaged by inappropriate use of abrasive cleaning products or substances that contain abrasives, ammonia, bleach, spirit or other aggressive chemicals including alcohol • Burns caused by very hot items or liquids • Bleaching and warping caused by exposure to excessive sunlight • Warping and splitting caused by significant changes in temperature • Warping and splitting caused by excess humidity • Tables being used outdoors that are not specified for outdoor use • Solid wooden table tops are often supplied with wood reinforcing batons on their underside. If removed the table top is likely to warp

Cleaning	Maintenance	Repair
<p>Wood table tops that have a lacquer on must be cleaned with a product that does not damage the lacquer, use warm water and liquid detergent or soap. Liquid spills should be cleaned as soon as possible and certainly not left for prolonged periods.</p>	<p><u>wood that has been sealed</u> Seals require regular re-application, depending on how much it has been used and how often it has been cleaned/wiped. If a sealed surface is showing marks and scratches, use an extra fine sandpaper to remove these and then re-apply the seal to restore the original finish.</p> <p><u>wood with a lacquer</u> Lacquer gives a strong layer of protection that can last for years. It usually simply requires cleaning with warm water and soap. If the lacquer is chipped, it can be difficult to repair. For shallow chips, which do not penetrate through the lacquer, but may be unsightly lightly sand the area with extra fine sandpaper, and then use furniture polish to shine the surface</p> <p><u>wood specified for outdoor use</u> Wooden outdoor furniture tends to weather to a silver-grey colour once it has been exposed to enough weather. Regular oiling will maintain this appearance and also protect the surface from drying and splintering and from stains.</p>	<p>Deep chips and scratches in wooden surfaces are particularly obvious if they expose a different colour core. Specialist products can fill chips and scratches. Following the manufacturer's instructions is particularly important.</p>

Stone, Marble, Quartz and Concrete including Terrazzo

Many different types of stone, including marble, granite, limestone and quartz are used for furniture.

Common causes of damage
<p>Permanent stains from acids in foods such as tomato, mustard, fruit juices, wines and coffee, spills need cleaning straight away</p> <p>Warping from using the wrong cleaning products, such as scouring creams, other abrasive cleaners</p> <p>Chips and scratch from knocks, particularly on straight edges</p> <p>Table tops on stone being damaged by excessive heat</p> <p>When moving tables with stone tops, the bases can come off as the top-to-base fixing tends to be adhesive rather than screws. When moving tables lift the bases.</p>

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Cleaning	Deep Cleaning	Maintenance
Wipe with warm water and soap, use a soft brush if necessary. Stone surfaces can be polished using standard polishing products.	Difficult stains (like ink, wine, grease, oil, etc) can with care be cleaned off using white spirit (don't use on concrete). We strongly recommend first testing the cleaning on a non-visible area such as underside of a table.	Applying a seal is the most effective way to protect a stone or marble surface.

Stainless Steel

Stainless steel is an alloy that does not rust or wear with excessive cleaning, however all grades of stainless steel will stain and discolour without proper maintenance and cleaning

Common causes of damage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not use strong acid solutions or abrasive cleaners. Do not use steel wool, steel brushes or other cleaning products that contain steel Do not use stainless steel furniture outdoors which is not specifically specified for outdoor use

Cleaning	Deep Cleaning
Use warm water and soap. Use a furniture polish to restore a stainless surface that has lost its sheen. Stainless steel table tops that have lacquer on must be cleaned with warm soapy water.	Stainless steel can be cleaned using branded stainless steel cleaners, polishes are also suitable. Incorrect cleaners can cause staining or corrosion. When cleaning use a nylon or other non-scratching cloth, when the direction of the grain is visible clean in this direction.

Zinc, Brass & Copper

Zinc, brass and copper all have surfaces which quickly tarnish when exposed to air, forming a matt layer.

Common causes of damage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heat – do not set down hot plates and pans Liquid – spillages should be removed immediately, acidic liquids will mark very quickly Direct sunlight – the metal can become very hot. This can also effect the bond between the metal and substrate

Cleaning	Maintenance
On all finishes wash with warm soapy water. Any tops with lacquer on must be cleaned with a product that does not damage the lacquer.	To maintain polished/mirror and hand beaten zinc, copper or brass top, we recommend using a proprietary polish. This will need to be repeated regularly.

Aluminum

Aluminum furniture is strong and resistant to corrosion, it is often given a protective coating to maintain a bright appearance.

Cleaning	Deep Cleaning	Maintenance
Clean spills immediately, using warm soapy water.	For severe stains you can use white spirit, applied on a cloth. Rinse off residue afterwards. If the aluminum has a grain, always rub the surface in the direction of the grain.	Wax aluminum furniture using wax if it starts to dull. For glossy appearance you can use an aluminum polish.

Cast Iron

Cast iron furniture is heavy and durable. It can have a rough surface that is difficult to clean and can rust.

Cleaning	Deep Cleaning	Maintenance
Use soapy water and possibly a scrubbing brush.	Use a jet wash (only if the cast iron isn't painted).	Protect by applying a suitable proprietary wax. If rust forms, rub-down the affected area using fine sandpaper or wire brush.

Painted or Powder-coated Furniture

Powder coating is mostly used on metal surfaces. Paint is less robust, so painted surfaces are often protected with a layer of lacquer/varnish.

Cleaning	Maintenance
Use warm soapy water to clean, avoid abrasive products as they will scratch.	If the paint is chipped and needs repair, clean and dry the affected area. Then treat whatever the surface is under the paint if necessary. If it is metal surface and rust is visible give the affected area a rub down using fine sandpaper or a wire brush.

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Glass

Glass table tops are simple to clean and maintain.

Cleaning	Maintenance
Use hot soapy water to clean the top, drying with a soft dry cloth.	If a glass surface is chipped, use a diamond tipped file to remove the sharp edges.

Synthetic Materials

Man-made synthetic materials tend to be tough and easy to clean.

Cleaning	Deep Cleaning
Use warm soapy water, take care not to scratch the surface. Some furniture attracts static electricity, which causes dust to stick, use an anti-static cloth to minimise this.	For stubborn marks use a non-abrasive cleaning cream. For more cleaning power you can also add baking soda.

Chrome

Chrome is a resilient coating, typically electroplated to mild steel to protect it from rust and improves its appearance.

Cleaning	Deep Cleaning	Maintenance
Use a soft cloth or sponge with warm soapy water. After cleaning dry with a soft cloth, use standard furniture polishes to shine.	To remove stains and tarnishing from chrome we suggest using vinegar or alcohol on a cloth. Sprinkling baking soda onto the vinegar damp cloth.	To restore chromes sparkle we recommend using a proprietary polish. In the event of rust appearing we suggest crumpling up aluminum foil and dipping it in vinegar or coke and scrubbing the affected area. After this rinse well with water and dry with a soft cloth. Then polish the area and protect it with furniture wax.

Fabric and Leathers

Cleaning	Deep Cleaning
Regularly vacuum clean chairs that are upholstered to remove dust and dirt. Stains can generally be removed by lightly sponging with clear, lukewarm water. Always attend to stains as rapidly as possible.	Leather can have natural imperfections which does not affect durability. Please refer to suppliers' websites for more information on deep cleaning based on your fabric.

If you require any further advice or information regarding the care and maintenance of our products, please contact sales@protocoluk.com