

Care & Maintenance

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Byarums Bruk

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General information about wood

Wood is a natural product that changes all the time. Colour differences, irregularities and small cracks are the hallmarks of solid wood. The wood in the furniture reacts to changes in humidity, absorbing and releasing moisture as the seasons change. Maintenance is necessary to retain the function and appearance of the wood. The question of how much maintenance is required and how often depends on how exposed the surfaces are to sun, water and mechanical wear. In addition to normal maintenance, for example wiping down the furniture with a mild detergent such as soap at regular intervals, it is a good idea to examine the surfaces more carefully a couple of times a year. Pay special attention to horizontal surfaces. If you are not sure how much work you want to put into maintaining the wood, try testing a less visible part of the wood, such as the back or underside. Less frequent maintenance of oiled or glazed wood will lead more quickly to a greyer shade, which some people appreciate. The disadvantage is that it takes longer for the wood to dry after rain. All materials have their advantages and disadvantages. In the long run, the best options are natural materials that are pleasant to touch, sit on and look at, have normal maintenance requirements, age beautifully and last well.

At Byarums Bruk we take great care in choosing the wood for our outdoor furniture. We work with a local joinery workshop that is aware of our high standards for the wood we use in our furniture. The wood our joinery workshop buys is FSC-labelled, which guarantees that it comes from responsibly managed forests.

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Pine

Pine has always been the main wood used for park seats and garden furniture in Sweden. We use slow-grown, sound pine from northern Sweden with the right moisture content, so that it can withstand our Scandinavian climate and the dramatic seasonal changes we have. With frequent maintenance, pine has a long life and good dimensional stability. However, cracks and sometimes traces of resin can be seen on older park seats. Knots may also become noticeable when the wood is placed outdoors. Healthy and rot-resistant wood contains resin. At temperatures above 38°C, the resin 'boils' and wants to escape. Only a small part of the resin leaves the wood in this way. Most of it remains and protects the wood from rot. The risk of resin deposits occurs mainly the first time the wood is exposed to high heat. Be careful not to place a new piece of furniture in direct sunlight initially, as the temperature variations can be considerable.

After some time, the resin 'stabilises' and stops seeping out. If resin does seep out, scrape lightly with a knife to remove most of the resin. Then wipe with white spirit to dissolve the remaining resin. In some cases, light sanding and then retouching or glazing of the exposed wood may be required.

Maintenance of glazed, oiled and pressure treated pine

- avoid applying surface treatments in direct sunlight or if the temperature is below 10°C
- make sure the wood is clean and dry (do not use a pressure washer for cleaning!)
- sand lightly with fine sandpaper, e.g. 180 grit
- brush off sanding dust
- brush on the oil and leave to dry for 20-30 minutes
- wipe off excess oil and store used rags appropriately in view of the risk of self-ignition
- allow to dry

To keep it looking good over the years and to encourage rapid drying after rain, wood should be treated with a wood preservative oil once or twice a year, preferably in spring when air humidity is low. A good specialist retailer will stock quality wood preservative oil.

We recommend an oil that has a high dry matter content and contains fungicides or their equivalent. An oil of this type also provides good protection against black mould. Black mould does not destroy the wood but can indirectly open the door for other wood-destroying fungi. Instead of wood preservative oil, glazed wood can be treated with a glaze containing oil as a binder. This is also available from well-stocked specialist retailers. They can help you to produce a coloured glaze, too, if you wish.

Maintenance of lacquered pine

Painted wood is best repainted with an alkyd lacquer or linseed oil paint. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on the paint can.

Our standard colours on lacquered pine

White NCS S 0502-Y	Grey NCS S 8500-N
Black NCS S 9000-N	Green NCS S 7020-
B90G	

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Oak & Mahogany

Oak and mahogany are both weather-resistant, hard and rot-resistant woods, which are traditionally used for exposed parts of houses, boats and outdoor furniture, for example. One of the natural characteristics of oak is its tendency to crack. Oak, and sometimes mahogany, can also initially release a dye naturally present in the wood when exposed to the elements. This dye may drip onto the floor and cause some discolouration. If the furniture is to be placed on a sensitive surface, such as certain types of stone or concrete slabs, it may be advisable to initially cover the ground beneath the product with plastic, for example. To keep it looking good over the years and to encourage rapid drying after rain, the wood should be treated with a good quality wood preservative oil at least once a year, preferably in spring when air humidity is low. A good specialist retailer will stock quality wood preservative oil. We recommend an oil that has a high dry matter content and contains fungicides or their equivalent. An oil of this type also provides good protection against black mould. Black mould does not destroy the wood but can indirectly open the door for other wood-destroying fungi.

Maintenance of oiled oak & mahogany

- make sure the wood is clean and dry (do not use a pressure washer for cleaning!)
- avoid applying surface treatments in direct sunlight or if the temperature is below 10°C
- sand lightly with fine sandpaper, e.g. 180 grit
- brush off sanding dust
- brush on the oil and leave to dry for 20-30 minutes
- wipe off excess oil and store used rags appropriately in view of the risk of self-ignition
- allow to dry

With this treatment, the wood will take on a darker shade over the years. Less frequent maintenance will lead more quickly to a greyer shade, which some people appreciate. The disadvantage is that it takes longer for the wood to dry after rain.

Maintenance of black glazed oak & mahogany

Black glazed wood is maintained in the same way as oiled wood. Over time, however, the black glaze fades. If you want to enhance the blackness of the wood, you can replace the wood oil with a black glaze.

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Castings – recycled aluminium

At Byarums Bruk, we maintain a traditional and artisanal approach to the production of castings. All the casting is done in sand that is reused over and over again. Our products are cast in a mould of sand, clay, soot and water, with no chemical binders. Every detail is hand-shaped and therefore unique. In some moulds, the molten metal is trapped in such a way that small ‘sand explosions’ occur, giving rise to black spots. These spots are proof that the casting was made using original methods – think of them as a mark of authenticity.

Maintenance of natural finish (raw aluminium)

Aluminium that is untreated, raw/natural, requires very little maintenance.

Should any discolouration of a more stubborn nature occur, there are

a few things to try – test first on the underside or on a less visible area to see the result.

- wipe with methylated spirit
- rub with a scouring sponge
- clean with steel wool or a wire brush

Maintenance of lacquered aluminium

When touching up painted castings, a grease-free surface is important.

- use a wire brush to remove loose paint flakes.
- wipe with white spirit or equivalent to obtain a grease-free surface.
- apply a primer or undercoat for aluminium only on the stain(s). Alkyd lacquer, thinned by about 10%, can be used as a primer.
- apply a top coat of alkyd lacquer.

Our standard colours on lacquered castings

White RAL 9016

Black RAL 9005

Green RAL 6005

Byarums Bruk

Carrara marble

Marble is a natural material that often works perfectly as a table top, since maintenance is minimal and wiping down the table is usually sufficient. However, because marble has an open structure, spilled liquids may leave marks on the table top. This is most noticeable when the table top is new. To make the top more resistant to stains, it is possible to treat the marble with e.g. paraffin oil when new and then once a year. A number of products for marble, offering different degrees of protection, are available from specialist retailers. In winter (at temperatures below 0°C), marble should be stored somewhere frost-free. All stone has some form of 'natural defects', i.e. natural variations that are not grounds for complaint. Common variations on Carrara marble are:

- cracks on the surface of the stone
- small air bubbles from the time when the stone was formed. These appear as small holes and small white dots, and are very common on various types of marble from the Carrara area.

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