

**THE NATURE OF WOOD**

Wood is a product of nature and therefore acts in ways beyond human control. All hardwood has variation in its color and grain. These wood characteristics will put their own unique touch to each piece of solid wood furniture. Even though we go through the same building process, no two pieces will be exactly the same. Wood color can vary a lot depending on stain selection.

Most hardwoods are open grained, causing solid wood furniture to expand and contract with changes in temperature and humidity, even after protective finishes have been applied. These temperature changes may cause the wood to crack or have surface checks. This is not abnormal and these are

not considered as flaws, but rather nature's "beauty marks" which make each piece manufactured at West Point Woodworking a truly unique piece of furniture.

Indoor humidity should be kept in the 35-40% range to minimize these effects. Solid wood should be kept away from direct sources of heating and cooling and should not be stored in attics or basements. Direct sunlight and fluorescent fixtures that contain ultraviolet rays can cause chemical changes in wood and finish and therefore should be avoided.

When cared for properly your solid wood furniture will become a piece of timeless beauty, one that will be treasured for generations.

**WARRANTY POLICY**

At West Point Woodworking we are pleased that you have chosen to invest in hardwood furniture. Our tables are built entirely out of hardwoods from the top to bottom. You will not find any particle board or veneers, with the exception of some parts of the cabinet base. We use some plywood in places where it would not be practical to use solid hardwoods due to expansion and contraction of solid wood. We offer a two year warranty on workmanship, materials, and construction methods. If a defect is found in the first two years of when the table was built, and the table has not been abused or improperly cared for, we will repair the table at no cost. If the table has been damaged due to improper care we can still repair the table and will do so at a reasonable fee (usually \$60 or less depending on damage).

Always keep in mind that wood is a natural product and can expand or contract under certain humidity conditions. When the humidity is too high (above 50%) you may see some gaps between the leaves toward the center of the table. If the humidity level drops below 35% you may notice a little gap between the leaves towards the outer edge of the leaves. Most of the time this is nothing to be alarmed about and you may see the table go through this as the seasons change, especially if the house is not humidity controlled. If there is enough expansion or contraction in the table top to actually cause the wood to split, we will repair the table in the first two years unless it was improperly cared for. Finishing and shipping back and forth for repairs is not included in the warranty.

If the table splits after two years from the manufacturing date, there will be a minimum charge of \$35 to repair the table and send it to the finish shop. Finishing cost will have to be negotiated between the retail store and the finisher.



### CARE OF SOLID WOOD TABLES

If cared for properly your solid hardwood table can give you a lifetime of service and beauty. Here are several care tips that will enhance your solid hardwood table investment:

- Place your table away from radiators, fireplaces, and heating ducts.  
  
Position table out of direct sunlight or adjust blinds to avoid hour after hour of direct sunlight.
- Control humidity to 40%–45%. In winter use a humidifier, in summer use a dehumidifier or air conditioner.
- Use coasters with non-scratching bottoms.  
  
Use padding under all sharp, hot, or cold objects.
- Store table leaves in close proximity to table or in the same humidity, avoid storing leaves in damp basements where the leaves may swell.
- Avoid using nail polish remover, alcohol, and other solvents near or on table.

### ROUTINE CLEANING AND CARE

DUST CAREFULLY with a soft cloth, following the grain pattern of the wood. Use an old T-shirt, baby diaper or cheesecloth that has been laundered to remove the sizing.

DUST OFTEN to remove everyday abrasive particles from wood surfaces.

CONSIDER CLEANING with a mild nonalkaline soap and water. Use the suds in a damp sponge or cloth, but be sure to pre-test the solution on an out-of-sight section to make sure it doesn't damage the finish. Dry immediately with a soft cloth and buff lightly, following the grain.

DON'T WAX or use any polish that contains any silicones! Catalyzed heat and moisture resistant finishes don't need additional polish, but if you want to use a polish we recommend Guardsman Furniture Polish.

### REAL OR IMITATION?

Not sure if you're buying solid hardwood or a chip imitation? A check point is the glue joints. Put your finger on a glue joint and trace it along the top of the surface, over the edge, and to the underside. If the line disappears it's probably an imitation. Solid hardwood joints on the other hand can be traced across the top, the side and the underside.

