

## Crate Designs Ltd. - Furniture Maintenance and Cleaning

In keeping with the lifetime expectancy of your Crate Designs furniture, we are confident that the finish we apply has matching durability. Our furniture is finished with a penetrating, non-toxic oil that requires minimal maintenance to keep it looking fresh, for as long as you own it.

We have chosen to use an "open" oil finish, because scrapes and scratches are almost invisible on this surface, compared to a "sealed" finish, such as lacquer or varnish.

The suggested method for normal cleaning is to dust with a slightly water dampened cloth. Soiled areas can be cleaned with Orange Glo or a water dampened "Scotchbrite" pad. For extremely soiled areas, use a small amount of a cleaner, such as "Fantastic", followed by a light application of a good furniture oil, (such as Crate Designs oil or any good quality furniture oil). To maintain your Crate Designs furniture's finish, it is recommended that you re-oil your furniture every year or two. (Orange Glo and Crate Designs Oil, both clear and stained, are available in all showroom locations.)

Special attention should be given to tops of dining, coffee and end tables, as these surfaces tend to be used and cleaned more often. It is recommended that you oil these tops a few times during the first year of use. This will greatly increase moisture and stain resistance. In general, frequency of oiling relates to use, but too much oiling will build a gloss finish, (which may not be desirable).

An optional lacquer finish is available. Lacquer provides greater moisture resistance and easier cleaning, especially on tabletops. It is not as forgiving as the standard oil finish when it comes to scrapes or scratches. Most repairs will require the services of a professional refinisher. For this reason many models are available with a lacquer finish on the top only and our standard oil finish on the base of the item. This combination can give you the best durability.

Lacquered items should be cleaned with a slightly water dampened cloth. While this finish is easier to clean and more moisture resistant than the standard oil finish, it is not waterproof or stain-proof. Moisture, or damp articles left on these surfaces will cause permanent damage.

Regardless of the finish you choose, clean up spills and stains immediately to prevent permanent damage. Always use coasters or protective materials when placing anything on top. Wipe up water or other liquids immediately. Never place hot objects directly onto wood. Protect from direct exposure from sunlight.

**Some suggested remedies:** (Caution – any of these techniques or products should be tried on an inconspicuous surface first).

**Mr. Clean Magic Eraser** products have been used successfully to remove tough stains, such as ink, crayon etc..

**Candle Wax:** Gently scrape away as much wax as you can using your finger, a plastic kitchen scraper, or a stiff piece of cardboard. Note: too much pressure will scratch the wood. Applying ice cubes in a plastic bag to the wax may help it to crumble. Remove remaining traces of wax with a cloth moistened with mineral spirits (paint thinner). Re-oil entire surface area.

**Cracks and Gaps** are normal in Crate Designs furniture. The furniture construction has been designed with this in mind. It would be very unusual for a gap or crack to be a cause for concern.

**Scratches:** Light scratches will often disappear with an application of Crate Designs Furniture Oil/Stain. Deeper scratches may require "Steaming" or "Sanding".

**Re-Oiling:** Use Crate Designs Clear Oil to rejuvenate "dry" furniture and /or to increase moisture resistance without darkening the colour.

Use Crate Designs Stain/Oil to restore the colour of your furniture or to darken the colour.

- Shake well, prior to using.
- Apply a liberal amount to a clean lint-free cloth.
- Rub lightly with the grain direction.

- Allow to penetrate for a few minutes.
- Polish lightly to remove excess oil.
- Store used cloth in an air tight container.

To restore the colour after a spot repair, moisten a small area of your cloth with oil and dab carefully, starting in the centre of the light spot. Work the oil carefully towards the outside of the spot in order to blend the colour with the surrounding area. Repeat until the desired colour is achieved and blends with the surrounding area. If the wood has been "steamed" or "polished" by cleaning it may be necessary to sand lightly with 100 grit sandpaper (working in the same direction as the wood grain) in order for the oil to properly penetrate.

**Sanding to Repair:** Damage on lacquered surfaces should be repaired by a professional.

**Caution:** Wood doors and furniture tops that are 1 ½" or 2 ¼" thick, are usually manufactured with a veneered panel surrounded by a 3" to 3 ½" wide rim of solid wood.

Sanding the veneered portion may result in permanent damage!

Our standard oil finish can be repaired. It is possible to repair a complete surface or a small spot. In both instances always sand in the direction of the wood grain using 100 grit sandpaper. Crate Designs Furniture Oil/Stain will be necessary to restore the colour in sanded areas. See **Re-Oiling**.

**Steaming to Repair:** Dents are compressed layers of wood caused by hard impacts. They can sometimes be raised back to their original level by an application of steam in order to swell the wood cells. Place several layers of damp clean cotton rags above dent. Touch the rags over the dent with the tip of a hot iron. The resulting steam will cause the wood fibers to swell back into place. It may be necessary to repeat this process until the dented area is level with the surface around it. Allow the area to dry. The steam will usually lighten the wood colour. See **Re-Oiling** for tips on how to restore the colour.

NOTE: Do not use this treatment on veneered tops or doors. The steam can soften the glue under the veneer and cause it to come loose.

**Ink & Other Stains:** If ink is spilled or used to mark wood it will penetrate and become almost impossible to remove. The following methods may be helpful should a stain occur. Blot the spot immediately before the ink has a chance to penetrate the wood. Do Not Rub--keep turning the cloth to prevent smearing.

If stain remains:

1. Try a **Mr. Clean Magic Eraser**
2. Try removing ink with hair spray – it often works!
3. Table salt on a damp cloth can remove blood stains.
4. Mineral spirits (paint thinner) will remove some crayon and oil based stains.
5. Apply a mixture of 1 part bleach to 4 parts water. Allow the solution to stand a few minutes and remove. The solution works slowly, so give it time to work on the stain. It may also bleach out part of the natural color. The bleach will work better if the spot is sanded lightly before application. (CAUTION: Bleach is poisonous. Follow label directions.)

See **Re-Oiling** to restore colour to wood.

**Mattresses:** To prolong the life of your Premier mattress, it should be turned, to equalize wear. Flip your mattress over (side to side) monthly, and every second month flip it end to end. Your Ekos or Yogapedic is one-sided and does not need to be flipped over. Turn these mattresses end to end monthly to equalize wear.

**Upholstery Tips:** Vacuum regularly! Accumulated dust, pet hair and soiling are the major causes of fabric wear. Turn your seat and back cushions over weekly, to help keep covers aligned and to equalize wear. As well, switch the position of cushions to lessen the premature wearing of any one in particular. Pub style back pillows should be "punched" or "patted" back into shape as required. If the fabric on your cushions becomes stained or soiled, we recommend that you leave the covers on the cushions and hire a professional cleaner.