

## FURNITURE CHARACTERISTICS

We have many different ranges available on our website in a variety of designs and wood types. Some may be distressed - naturally or otherwise - and others may have a rustic style, but whichever piece you have chosen it is unique to you.



WOOD GRAIN



TIGER MARKS



KNOTS

Regardless of range and wood type, every single item we sell at Oakworld.co.uk is unique. The colour may be slightly different on one piece to the next, perhaps there are differences in wood grain or other natural marks are present. These are all perfectly natural and they should not be mistaken for a fault or flaw in your item. Below are a selection of characteristics that may be present on your furniture.

Knots are particularly interesting as they mark where branches had formed on the tree your furniture was made from. They're absolutely natural and because every tree has branches you're highly likely to find a knot somewhere on your item. Tiger marks are essentially stretch marks in the wood and represent rapid growth. This too is natural.

Whilst tiger marks and knots might not be present in your furniture, wood grain certainly will. Every item of wood has its own unique wood grain, in the same way that every human has their own unique fingerprint.

Every tree is different, growing and maturing at different rates. This creates grain variation, not only in light and dark shades but in thickness of grain. These variations are not a fault, it's nature's way of showing growth patterns also known as growth rings.

The furniture can change colour slightly over its lifetime due to the effects of natural light, this is just part of the ageing process. However, to slow this process please avoid direct sunlight as this is a natural accelerant and can cause colour fading on the exposed areas of the furniture. Please ensure any objects placed on the furniture are periodically re-arranged to allow an even aging process on the surfaces.

## EXPANSION & CONTRACTION OF FURNITURE



EXPANSION GAP

As with all natural products an amount of movement can happen over time, this is normal. But excessive movement will need investigating as the furniture may not be placed in the best position. All wood changes shape due to variations in humidity and temperature, these cause the wood to swell and shrink. To help avoid the extremes of this please make sure that this item is not placed in direct contact or near to any heat source (i.e. radiators and heaters). Extreme temperatures should be avoided as this will dry and severely shrink the wood. The same basic principle applies to the positioning of furniture in excessive areas of moisture (i.e. air conditioning units or similar devices), moisture may cause the wood to twist or swell both may result in the deterioration of the construction.

Some of our items however do include expansion gaps (pictured above), and these gaps allow the furniture to expand and contract safely without compromising the item's rigidity and structural soundness. These gaps should not be considered a fault.

Maintaining the easy sliding action of the drawers is as simple as running a wax candle on the runners to keep them operating smoothly.

## CARING FOR YOUR FURNITURE

Should you have any spillages on the surface of the furniture please ensure that they are removed quickly. Do not wipe in a circular motion but use a blotting action to soak up the liquid then use a damp (but not wet) clean cloth.

Avoid placing hot objects directly on the surface of the furniture. Always use coasters and placemats. If you are using your oak furniture with warm items use suitable proprietary heat protection.

Never use any types of abrasive cleaning products as they will score and damage the surface finish.

When dusting always use a soft lint free dry cloth, ensuring that there is no grit contained within the duster.

If your furniture is part of our oiled or waxed ranges your furniture has been treated with a spray oil/wax for general protection; so as to ensure your furniture lasts a lifetime we recommend that a clear bees wax is applied every 3-6 months with a soft, clean cloth in the direction of the grain. If your furniture is part of our lacquered range the treatment is slightly different, you need to simply keep the item dust free with a lint free cloth, if you wish to apply furniture polish please make sure this is silicone free.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

Please note all items which are to be used around the environment where children are present should be secured against a wall, if you require any advice on this please ask a member of our team who will be happy to help