

FAQ

Q. Doesn't teak require alot of maintenance?

That's a common misconception, but NO. Generally speaking, teak requires less maintenance than stainless steel. One of the greatest features of quality teak wood is that it requires very little maintenance and ages gracefully. If you appreciate the natural color of aged teak, then all you really have to do is clean it regularly. A good rinse once or twice a month with a garden hose and wipe down with a towel is plenty in most cases. If you prefer the golden color of new teak, more regular cleanings will maintain much of the original hue. You can also treat teak wood with a teak protector or sealer which will preserve the golden honey tone that many people love. Oiling teak will also preserve teak's golden color, but starts a regimen that involves cleaning and re-oiling every 3 months to 1 year.

Q. Do you have to oil these cabinets?

The quick answer is "NO". The natural oils that protect teak wood from weather, pests and rot is always inside the wood. Additional coats of oil won't soak in and penetrate the wood to protect it. Commercial "teak oil" may even deplete the oils that are there naturally because it includes solvents which can break down and damage the natural oils in teak wood. If you decide you want to oil your teak, 100% tung oil or linseed oil is a better choice.

Q. Won't wooden cabinets dry rot outdoors if they get wet regularly?

This would be true for most wood cabinets, but not if they're made of solid teak. Teak wood contains high levels of resinous oils that make it naturally resistant to moisture and impervious to the effects of extreme weather including hot sun, rain, frost and snow. Teak also contains silica, which creates a density in the wood making it extremely resistant to water, rotting, warping, shrinking, swelling, mold and fungal decay and many harsh chemicals. This is why we consider teak the "only serious choice" in building outdoor wood cabinetry.

Q. Won't wooden cabinets crack when the weather changes?

All wood expands and contracts to some degree with changes in temperature and humidity. If some amount of movement of the wood is not allowed it can crack in some cases. Pacific Teak Millworks' cabinets are designed and built using "floating" panels that are allowed to move within the frames to eliminate cracking.

Q. Won't wood cabinets get eaten by termites outdoors?

Again, this would be true for most species of wood cabinets, but not solid teak. Teak wood contains high levels of resinous oils that make it highly distasteful and repellent to insects, especially termites. It is one of very few woods that has this quality.

Q. What is A/B grade teak?

Excellent Question. Many people think that this refers to a better, or poorer quality of wood. Actually, A, B and C "grade" teak refers to the part of the tree that a particular piece of wood comes from. "A Grade" teak comes from the heart of the tree with the straightest, most consistent grain patterns and no knots or sapwood. "B Grade" comes from the area a little further toward the outside of the tree. It has much of the straight grain, but includes more character with some swirl and knots in the grain. "C Grade" teak comes from the outer part of the tree and includes the most character and variety of color and grain pattern. Since teak trees are not particularly large, most pieces of wood are not strictly A, B, or C grade, but include some of 2, or all 3 areas of the tree which is what A/B, B/C, and A/B/C grade terms come from.

Q. Why are the handles not attached to my doors and drawers?

Because we want you to choose where you want them to be. Since people have different preferences about location and orientation of cabinet knobs and handles, we prefer not to limit our customers choices in this area. Some customers choose not to use our standard handles because they want a different style. In fact some customers don't want any handles or knobs at all, and add hardware that opens the doors and drawers with a light push or tap.

Manufacturers of stainless steel cabinets pre-drill the handle holes mainly because stainless is extremely difficult to drill, and if the drill bit "walks" or moves while drilling, it will permanently damage the door or drawer. Wood, however, is much easier and safer to drill and, if necessary, repair.

Q. How are your cabinets made?

Thank you for asking. Our cabinetry is crafted using 100% solid, kiln dried, certified A/B grade teak. All components are fabricated using state of the art CAD manufacturing machinery for exact, precision fit, then hand assembled in tooled fixtures and fine sanded to a furniture quality finish. Construction is glued mortise and tenon, for the highest quality and strength. Doors and drawers include solid 1" thick frames inset into the beveled outer flange for a clean, professional, high end appearance. Door panels use a floating design, while drawer faces feature double front, tongue and groove construction. We also include PVC drawer bottoms for a lifetime of easy cleanup and durability that will never require maintenance.

Q. Do these cabinets have some sort of finish on them?

No. We're about giving customers choices in the look they want, so our cabinets are left natural with no finish.

Q. Can I stain these products?

Absolutely. Since our cabinets are 100% solid wood, you can stain them to match any natural materials or decor.

Q. How should I clean my cabinets?

A good rinse once or twice a month with a hose and wipe down with a towel is plenty in most cases. In harsher environments, or when cleaning has been neglected, a light scrub with a teak cleaner or mild dish soap and clean water with a towel or soft, nylon bristle brush is all it takes. We do not recommend using a pressure washer to clean our teak cabinetry, but it can be done as long as you do so very carefully and are aware that too much pressure can damage the surface of the wood. Use only low pressure, a wide spray nozzle, and keep the tip at least 12" away from the teak.

Q. I don't like the gray color the cabinets have turned. What can I do?

A good cleaning with a teak cleaner or mild dish soap and clean water and scrub with a soft, nylon bristle brush will bring back most of the natural honey-gold color of new teak. You can also give your cabinets a light sanding which will expose fresh wood and restore it to the original color.

Q. How can I remove my doors and drawers for cleaning?

Doors: Open the door all the way. Reach under both hinges at the very back, or tail of the hinge and press the release triggers. The hinge bodies will release from the mounting plates and the door will be loose from the chassis.

Drawers: Our soft-close drawer glides include an orange release/ adjustment mechanism at the front of the Glide with a blue release trigger. To remove the Drawer, open it all the way and depress both triggers outward at the same time, while lifting the drawer up and out of the chassis.

Q. Are the door hinges and drawer glides adjustable?

Yes, both our self/ soft closing doors and drawers are adjustable. Please see our installation instructions available on our website for these procedures.

Q. What is the warranty on these cabinets?

Pacific Teak Millworks warrants to the original purchaser that your outdoor cabinetry will be free of defects in materials and workmanship for a period of ten-years from the original date of purchase. In addition, door hinges are warranted to the original owner for as long as you own your cabinetry, and our drawer glides are covered for a period of 5 years.

Q. Doesn't teak come from the rainforest?

No. Teak is native to a large range of several countries in southeast Asia. Our teak specifically is grown on commercial plantations in Indonesia.

Q. Isn't cutting teak trees illegal?

There is in fact some illegal teak logging that still goes on in some countries. Due to the large, worldwide demand for teak products, most teak today is grown on commercial plantations. Indonesia in particular has strict controls on harvesting teak, and strict penalties for illegal logging.

Q. How long will teak last?

Teak wood will easily last a good 75 to 100 years virtually unaffected when left unprotected outdoors. Teak beams in good condition are commonly seen in buildings many centuries old, and have lasted in palaces and temples over 1,000 years. In fact, teak structures have been uncovered intact in the jungles of southeast Asia dating back 1,000 years. Teak is the only wood that can make these claims.

Q. How long before teak turns gray?

The process of teak aging and naturally turning gray is the result of its exposure to water and UV light. It will take approximately 9-12 months depending on the amount of ultraviolet light and the rain the teak is exposed to.

Q. Where does the wood come from?

Our wood is plantation-grown Javanese teak that comes from a variety of private and government managed forests in Indonesia.

Q. Is the wood used to make these cabinets FSC certified?

All our raw materials are purchased from suppliers either **PEFC** or **FSC** certified at the source. More importantly, all Pacific Teak Millworks products are built under the **SLVK** certification which is generally considered more strict than FSC. SLVK is the Indonesian governmental program which sets legal standards for wood related industries not just to preserve the environmental aspects of this valuable resource, but also to promote the economic and social quality of life of its people. SLVK ensures in an officially transparent manner, that all our cabinetry is manufactured using legally and sustainably grown, harvested, and purchased timber.

