

## STICKLEY FINE FURNITURE CARE GUIDE

Purchasing Stickley furniture is an opportunity — the opportunity to be the first owner of what should become a treasured heirloom. Over the years we have seen vintage Stickley pieces valued far beyond their original purchase price. It was not only the craftspeople at Stickley who were responsible for the increase in value — it was the care given by the owners.

The following recommendations are typical care advice for any premium quality solid wood furniture. Following these simple guidelines will help preserve the beauty and soundness of your Stickley furniture for generations of use.

- **Caring for fine furniture is much simpler than most people realize.** In most cases, dusting regularly with a clean, soft, lint-free cloth is sufficient. We recommend using a slightly dampened cloth for cleaning wood and smooth leathers. Be sure to dry the surface gently after cleaning to avoid water spotting.

In general, silicone-based polishes are usually not the best choice for fine finishes. The most frequent problems associated with silicone polishes are over-polishing, combining them with other products, and future restoration issues. We do not recommend using oil soaps for frequent cleaning of new furniture. Cared for correctly, your new furniture should not accumulate enough grease and dirt to require the need for oil soaps.

- **Objects should be lifted rather than dragged across a finished surface.** Expect some small surface scratches to appear on some finishes through normal use. Furniture wax can minimize this occurrence in many cases, but be sure to test the product and follow manufacturer's instructions.

- **Avoid exposing your furniture to strong sunlight.** Unfiltered ultraviolet (UV) rays will discolor and damage wood, finishes, fabrics, leather and rugs over time.

- **Controlling relative humidity and temperature is important to the long-term life of fine wood furniture, leather and upholstery.** Stickley furniture is constructed to allow for natural fluctuations of temperature and humidity. For instance, solid tabletops will expand

slightly in the summer and contract in the dryer winter months without any negative effects. If an atmospheric change is too drastic, or humidity and temperature levels too extreme one way or the other, your furniture can be damaged.

- **Nail polish remover, hair spray, perfume and potpourri (and any other products that contain solvents) can damage wood and leather finishes.** Do not place these products directly on a wood or leather surface, and avoid using them near any wood or leather furniture.

- **Rubber, cork, vinyl or plastic products can damage some finishes.** Use caution when placing telephones, clocks and electronics on a finished surface, as most have rubber or plastic footpads which can react with a lacquer finish. Avoid placing vinyl or cork placemats, coasters or tablecloths directly on a wood surface. To prevent damage, use a protective layer (cotton, linen or felt cloth) between the object and the finish.

- **Please store table leaves flat, apron side up, in a controlled environment to prevent warping or cracking.** Do not store in an attic or basement. We recommend investing in cloth table leaf storage bags to protect against minor scratching.

- **Avoid exposing the furniture finish to items creating extreme heat, cold or moisture.** Use protective padding under these items to avoid damaging the finish. Use caution when placing items that radiate continuous heat on fine wood furniture. For example, some computers or stereos can raise the surface temperature by up to 20 degrees. Prolonged use without protecting the finish may damage your furniture.

*It is important to test any cleaning or protection product in an inconspicuous area before using. Please follow manufacturer's instructions carefully when using any product on your Stickley furniture. Always apply care products in the same direction as the wood grain, not across it or in circles, to avoid leaving visible streaking or scratching. For answers to your specific care questions, please contact our craftspeople via e-mail at [care@stickley.com](mailto:care@stickley.com).*

# STICKLEY™