

Owner's Guide for Fine Furniture

Kindel, Karges, Councill and Councill Contract, known as Kindel Grand Rapids, has hand-crafted beautiful furniture collectively for 300 years. Our furniture has proven to age gracefully through the years. The craftsmen and craftswomen of Kindel Grand Rapids are passionate about furniture making, and we hope you will care for your furniture as much as our artisans have in crafting it.

- **Vinyl or plastic products, rubber or cork can damage lacquer finishes.**
When plastic, rubber, or vinyl come in contact with a lacquer finish, a molecular bond begins to form. The lacquer can imprint at the point of contact ("lacquer migration"). To prevent damage, a protective layer between any object and the finish should be any type of cotton or felt with adhesive to the opposite side.
- **When using a glass top over a finished surface use plain felt with no glue between the glass and the finished surface.**
Do not place cork or plastic dots as these items can react with a finish. You may also place the glass directly on the finish. You might notice a shiny spot between the glass and the top. Without going into detail, this is a phenomenon known as Newton's Rings and it will not deteriorate the finish.
- **Avoid exposure to strong sunlight. Ultraviolet (UV) rays can discolor wood, furniture finishes, fabrics, leather and carpet.**
It is natural for wood to mellow or darken through the natural aging process. The wood and finish will fade when exposed to bright, strong sunlight. An object sitting on a table with sunlight exposure will leave a mark over time. The degree of fading is dependent upon wood species, finish and length of exposure.
- **Nail polish remover, hair spray or perfume, dyed candles and products that contain solvents are detrimental to fine finishes.**
The solvents in these products will react with the lacquer and cause the sheen to deteriorate. Caught early, the finish may be restored. Professional assistance is required to restore finishes damaged by these products.
- **Table leaves: Flat storage or upright storage?**
A dining table with a self-storage tray box or a separate box to store leaves, is optimal for least risk of damage. Perimeter leaves or leaves with aprons are best stored flat in the proper environment with humidity controls (i.e. not in a basement or attic). When table leaves are stored flat, do not stack anything on top of them to avoid damage. Although not preferred, table leaves may be stored upright but make sure they stand on edge with the dowel pins facing up.
Remember: When table leaves are stored where sun and ambient light are not as strong as on the table top, expect to see color variations.
- **Relative humidity is important to the long-term life of fine furniture.**
Our furniture is constructed with methods that allow for natural fluctuations of temperature and humidity. Wood is always "alive," and some movement is inevitable. If the table was constructed as to constrict the natural movement, the result would be a crack or twist in the wood causing damage.
 - **In the winter months (dry, arid climates):** excessive dry air (below 40% relative humidity) can accelerate deterioration of furniture joinery and glue joints. It can pull moisture from solid wood causing shrinkage of door panels and tabletops. To prevent damage, place furniture in areas of minimum temperature and humidity extremes by avoiding active fireplaces and heating vents.
 - **In the summer months (moist, humid climates):** moisture laden air (above 60% relative humidity) can affect solid wood causing extension tabletops to swell creating gaps in the center. Likewise, drawers and doors will be more prone to sticking. To prevent damage, place furniture in areas of minimum temperature and humidity extremes by avoiding attics and basements. Reduce the amount of moisture in the air with air conditioning and/or a dehumidifier.

Avoid sudden changes in temperature or humidity. Moving a table from an air-conditioned home to a steamy moving van or vice-versa can be too much change for a table top to handle naturally and can result in a split or warpage.

Furniture Finish Care

- **General rules for dusting and cleaning.**
Use a lint free cloth, microfiber cloth or treated dust cloth for general dusting. Furniture cleaners and polishes are not required. For finger prints or spills, use a slightly damp (not wet) cloth and follow with a dry cloth to buff. Water will not damage the lacquer if wiped dry immediately.
- **Surface scratches and nicks**
as a result of normal use do not devalue furniture. Fine furniture is expected to bear the characteristic evidence of time and use. Furniture loses its value because of neglect and misuse. We trust that the care you give your furniture will result in generations of use.
- **Always dust and polish with the grain.**
A hand-rubbed lacquer finish is a result of rubbing the lacquer with a series of fine abrasive products such as sandpaper, steel wool and fine compounds like pumice and automotive compounds. Our artisans always rub these compounds in the same direction of the grain. When you dust or polish, fine dust particles can be abrasive and scratch the finish. Always wipe in the direction of the grain to minimize scratches.
- **Never drag objects across a finished surface.**
The lacquer has been hand rubbed to an extremely fine level, Unexpected objects like paper, newsprint, books and even drywall dust can cause scratches if dragged across a table. Accessories or decorative items should always be lifted. Use of table pads, tablecloths or glass will protect the finish from scratches.
- **Avoid exposing the furniture finish to extreme hot or cold objects or prolonged moisture.**
Always use table pads or trivets under hot or cold objects. Be careful placing a vase or glass of water that may shed condensation onto the finish. Condensation can cause water rings and removal may be a task for a furniture finish professional.
- **Furniture care products.**
Use furniture polish sparingly. We recommend polishes that do not contain waxes or petroleum distillate products. Products like these can cause build up over time.
 - **Avoid silicone-based polishes.** Furniture polishes that contain silicone cause future problems with any kind of restoration work. Once silicone polish has been applied to lacquer-based finishes it cannot be removed without professional refinishing.
 - **Allow polishes to dry completely before replacing objects.** The natural result of polishing with any solvent-based polish is a slight, temporary softening of the finish. Accessories, magazines and books can trap the solvents and keep them from dissipating.

Wood is a natural material. Wood changes color over time. Uniform aging is natural.

Wood furniture bears natural characteristics, marks and grain patterns that are consistent with the overall appearance of the wood. At Kindel Grand Rapids we work with the following wood species: Mahogany, Cherry, Maple, Walnut, Rosewood, Satinwood Babinga Pommele, Zebrawood, Pimento, Macassar Ebony, and Goncalo Alves, Inasmuch as each piece of wood is unique, it is our job to select the most beautiful veneers and solids of each wood species

As wood ages, it mellows. Heartwood is the darker or deeper color of the wood and sapwood is the lighter or whiter color. Trees have both heartwood and sapwood which are visible in your furniture. Our final finishing artisans blend the various color tones to create depth and enhance the natural grain pattern.

Cherry – Small sap pockets, twig starts, and mineral deposits are a characteristic of Cherry wood. They will probably be very narrow because when they cut the sap pockets out you end up with narrow lumber. Wider boards, which are more desirable for their interesting figure, are sure to have more sap pockets in them. In our opinion it is more desirable to have wider boards than to have many narrow boards with the sap pockets cut out. Cherry wood will change in color depending upon exposure to light. Expect new pieces to vary slightly from older ones even when ordering the same finish.

Mahogany – Mahogany has an open grain pattern that may or may not be filled depending upon the finish selected. A filled finish will eliminate the open grain by applying finishing materials to “close” the pores of the wood. If an unfilled finish is what is being contemplated the finish will not fill the grain completely. Surface scratches on filled finishes will be more evident than on unfilled finishes.

Crotch Mahogany and Ribbon Stripe Mahogany veneers are used in a veneer form since solid Crotch Mahogany would twist and crack due to its resistance to lie flat. Therefore, the surface grain of Crotch Mahogany veneer will have a natural tendency to raise. This characteristic is not a defect, and it is normal. The slight raising of the grain is often described as crazing. It is commonly seen on antique crotch mahogany furniture as a natural occurrence.