

# Furniture Cleaning & Care

Proper cleaning and care of your Sorrentino Mariani casegoods



Sorrentino  Mariani  
AMERICAN MADE. ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND.

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# Introduction

What's the best way to care for your wood furniture? Well, that depends. Ask three people, and you'll probably get three different answers. However, the experts do agree on some basic wood-care do's and don'ts. We've compiled these furniture care commandments for the cleaning and care of your Sorrentino Mariani casegoods.

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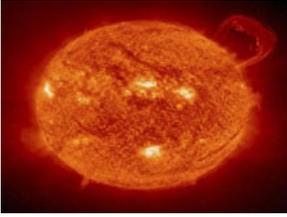
# General Care



- The finish of your furniture is precatalyzed lacquer. For daily cleaning use a soft cloth and water.
- Polish with a non-alcohol based furniture polish such as **Liberon Furniture Spray Wax** as needed to retain luster.
- If you have a matt (low sheen) top coat on your furniture, clean with a cloth dampened with water only. Never add a polish as this will cause streaking.
- Never apply any cleaner or polish directly to the furniture. Apply to a soft cloth and then dust the furniture.



# Dealing With Humidity



With a little tender loving care, your beautiful hardwood furniture can last a lifetime and beyond.

- Understand the nature of wood. Also learn how to prolong the life of the finish film that protects the wood.
- Changes in relative humidity are wood's Number 1 enemy. Especially if the furniture is stored in a non-climate controlled environment.
- We recommend keeping your room temperature at 70 to 72 degrees Fahrenheit. Relative humidity should be 50 percent to 55 percent. Specific levels, however, are not as important as avoiding radical swings in the temperature and the amount of moisture in the air.
- Avoid bringing furniture out of a hot storage area or truck into an air-conditioned building. Start with a warm room and then gradually lower the temperature to allow the wood time to acclimate to the cooler temperature. When moving from a cold warehouse or truck, the opposite applies; start with a cool room and gradually bring the heat up.

Other tips on dealing with expansion and contraction.

- If furniture is to be stored, it generally does better in an unheated environment because the relative humidity will fluctuate within a much narrower range. Air can hold more moisture at a high temperature than at a low one.
- Wood can best handle temperature changes and relative humidity if they occur gradually. Abrupt changes (closing or opening a vacation home, for example) can stress your furniture.
- Air conditioning. Keep the intake of outside humid air to a minimum.
- Add humidifiers or vaporizing units to a heating/air conditioning central system to help stabilize the humidity level.
- Use dehumidifiers during wet, rainy times and in damp rooms to remove excess moisture from the air.

# Dusting



So, you think you know how to dust. Think again. Following are detailed tips from the experts. Some may surprise you.

Use a clean, washable cloth made of soft, lint-free cotton. The best choices include an old T-shirt, diaper, cheesecloth, dish towel, piece of flannel, or chamois. The cloth should have no snaps, buttons, zipper or thick seams that could scratch furniture surfaces. Do not use a cloth that has hanging threads or unraveling edges. These could catch on wood slivers, molding, knobs or other loose pieces.

## Dry Dusting Versus Damp Dusting

- Many experts believe that dusting with a dry cloth is abrasive and will ultimately dull the finish. A dry cloth will not really remove dust.
- The experts typically recommend sprinkling a few drops of water onto the dusting cloth. The trick is to moisten the cloth just enough to make dust adhere to it. The cloth should not be so damp that it wets the wood. If you can see any trace of water on the wood after you wipe, your cloth is too damp. Some conservators recommend using distilled water for heirlooms or antiques.
- You might want to use a spray-on dusting aid or polish. If so, consider whether you want to apply silicone oil to your finishes. This type of oil is used in most commercial furniture sprays and polishes. To find out if your product contains silicone oil, consult the label or call the manufacturer.

**NEVER USE ALCOHOL OR AMMONIA BASED CLEANERS.**

# Wood Care Products



## Carefully Choose Wood Care Products

It's no wonder there's a lot of confusion about what wax wood-care products to use. Store shelves are stacked with countless brands of wax, polish, spray and oil. When you clean your furniture you're actually cleaning the finish, not the wood (Unless your furniture is sold as unfinished, or the finish has deteriorated). Proper care can prolong the life of a finish, making the surface of furniture slippery so that objects slide along it without scratching.



## All Furniture Polish Is Not Created Equal

Most people today use a furniture polish as an accessory for dusting furniture, which isn't necessary if all the you want to achieve is the removal of dust. In which case, all you need is a soft cloth, synthetic and/or natural. A soft cotton cloth is an excellent choice but microfiber is arguably the best material available today for dusting. However, if you have an interest in protecting and preserving your furniture, you should consider a furniture polish with a wax-based formula. If you are using a spray polish as your primary care and maintenance polish, then all you need to do is choose a quality product and follow the manufacturer's directions for use. Moreover, if you are using a paste wax or liquid wax for primary care and a spray polish for maintenance, be aware that the spray polish could potentially harm the waxed surface or remove it entirely.

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# Wood Care Products (Continued)

- The reason most furniture polishes are not created equal is that most are a solvent base (i.e. mineral spirits and turpentine) which remove wax. They are good vehicles for getting the wax to the surface (if you are okay with a solvent). Once the solvent has evaporated, and all that is left is the wax, any solvent that comes in contact with the wax will remove it. In other words, it is counter productive to spray a solvent base furniture polish over a paste wax or liquid wax surface.

There is a way to maintain a paste wax and liquid wax finish with a spray polish without harming it. The professional trick is to spray the polish onto the polishing cloth instead of directly to the furniture surface. A soft cotton cloth is perfect for this application. Two things occur when applying polish this way the solvent will absorb into the cloth while the remainder evaporates. This leaves only the wax and a little solvent vapor. If you are careful, you will be touching the surface with only the wax that is left on the polishing cloth.

- Oily cleaners and polishes will not provide a lasting, hard coat. Those containing silicone oil create a nice shine and a slippery surface, but they can interfere with refinishing. This type of oil can seep through cracks in the finish into the wood. That can ruin the new finish later. Be aware that labels often fail to say whether products contain silicone oil. Follow the manufacturers' instructions when using spray or liquid polishes.
- If you have waxed your furniture and want to switch to an oil-based polish or vice-versa, first clean the furniture with mineral spirits or a solvent-based wax remover. Do this in a spot with plenty of ventilation away from any heat source or sparks. First test the product you are using in an inconspicuous spot. When the piece is clean and dry, wax or polish. If you accidentally mix wax and oil, the finish will turn cloudy. In that case, wipe the finish off and clean it with mineral spirits or a solvent-based wax remover. Wax or polish when the finish is dry.

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# Wood Care Products (Continued)

- Paste wax has been used for centuries as a finishing material and a furniture care product. If used properly, paste wax will provide a thick, hard, lasting finish. Liquid wax is similar, but typically provides a thinner coating. Waxes dry hard so they do not smear and attract dust and dirt. Paste wax typically lasts six months to a couple of years, depending on how much the furniture is used and how many coats are applied. Paste wax will help delay the formation of water rings, giving you a little extra time to wipe up the moisture. Some people, prefer the soft sheen provided by waxes. Wax will not interfere with future refinishing. Make sure you buy a wax designed especially for wood furniture. Waxes for cars, shoes or other finishes might harm furniture.



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