

Caring for Woodscape products

All products for outdoor use require regular maintenance. To keep maintenance costs to a minimum, Woodscape's primary material of choice for Street Furniture products is Naturally Very Durable Hardwood.

Characteristics of NVD Hardwood

The natural durability of timber is classified in five broad categories based on their performance in ground contact. Timbers in the Naturally Very Durable category have a life expectancy, without preservative treatment, of more than 100 years in UK ground contact for section sizes of 200mm upwards. These timbers are usually very hard, extremely strong and have good fire and chemical resistance.

Dense Very Durable Hardwood in large sections seasons slowly over a number of years. During the acclimatisation process cracks/checks may appear, especially during periods of hot dry weather. These are more noticeable early in the seasoning cycle, than after indepth equalisation of moisture content has taken place.

The above characteristics of solid timber may cause a certain amount of concern until it is understood that they do not generally compromise the strength or durability of manufactured components. Unlike preservative treated softwoods, the durability of NVD Hardwood is throughout the full section and any moisture ingress would not normally result in internal decay.

All hardwoods exude tannin as part of the natural weathering process, when certain tannins (particularly Oak) come into contact with ferrous particles they can react and create a blue/black ink type stain. This is perfectly normal and can be removed with standard household detergents/bleach. For more stubborn stains an Oxalic Acid based product can be used.

Health & Safety Considerations

HANDLE WITH CARE - do not drop.

To the best of our knowledge, there are no particular Health and Safety concerns that apply to hardwood components. This is also considered to be the case with regard to COSHH assessments, taking account of the fully finished form in which the components are supplied. Note that **most components are heavy**, and as advised in our acknowledgement of order documents, they require careful unloading/handling by our customer on site in accordance with standard heavy lifting procedures. Weight per m³ of material at 12% m.c. can exceed 1000kg.

Unless otherwise specified, hardwood components supplied are fully machined with a planed, radiused and sanded finish.

Storage

Best stored in cool, damp conditions.

In **wet weather**, out in the open, components are best kept wrapped. In **dry weather**, keep components wrapped all around in polythene sheeting or a tarpaulin, and out of direct sunlight.

Air circulation or wind will cause rapid drying of NVDH surface fibres, unless accompanied by a high humidity. Rapid drying may be harmful to components that are relatively new and yet to acclimatise.

To give a measure of pre-installation protection against soiling most components are finished with one coat of Sadolin Industrial 94 Mais (or suitable alternative). The coating will gradually fade away to allow timber to weather naturally. If desired, one or more coats of pigmented stain may be applied at any time.

All components are supplied PHND (Pin Hole No Defect), RND (Resin No Defect) and SND (Stain No Defect).

For a few months after installation, especially during warm/dry weather, **regular wetting** is advisable to assist gradual acclimatisation.

Maintenance & Repair

While Woodscape products can be used without a maintenance routine, some inspection and maintenance may prolong their life.

Timber components should be inspected every 6 months, more in exposed locations, and cleaned to prevent dirt or moss build up.

Hardwood can be cleaned with a Molecular Nano (MN) cleaning product and treated with an MN sealant (a non-film forming hardwood treatment that slows down greying, and protects against dirt and other factors that impact the quality of the wood).

This is a good time to check for any damage or splintering that may require repair. Splinters, sharp edges or graffiti can be removed through light sanding.

Resin or gum exudation may occasionally occur on the finished surface of timber, especially during periods of warm weather. The condition generally will diminish with the passage of time. Should excesses of resin remain on the surface, these may be removed using a sharp blade. **Care should be taken to work with the grain and to avoid marking the surface.**

Should you wish to maintain surface colouring, Sadolin Industrial Mais is a suitable base coat for any further staining or specialist treatments you wish to apply on site.

If left in the natural state the long life expectancy of Naturally Very Durable Hardwood is not significantly impaired.

Polished Stainless Steel components should be cleaned using stainless steel polish and a lint free cloth.

Light damage (surface scratches etc.) can be removed using an emery pad (240 grit) and freeing oil such as 'WD40'.

Care should be taken to follow the direction of the brushing grain. It is recommended that a trial repair be carried out on an unimportant surface first. No corrosive cleaners or other abrasives should be used. Any contamination, particularly carbon steel scuffs from vehicles, should be quickly removed to avoid corrosion.

Powder-coated steel should be cleaned annually with water and possibly a mild detergent. Care should be taken to avoid scratching, which may limit the materials lifespan, and any deep scratches found should be repaired immediately.

Galvanised steel may have a shiny surface initially, but this will quickly dull off to an expected matt grey finish, that requires little regular cleaning if the components are exposed to rain (or cleaning with a low pressure hose), and offers high levels of protection against scratching. Can be cleaned annually with water and possibly a mild detergent, be aware that cleaning with stronger substances for graffiti removal will effect the lifespan of the steel.

Heavy damage to any product should be reported to Woodscape for specific advice on possible repairs.

ALL Maintenance, Repair & Cleaning procedures should be documented, as this information may be requested should you ask Woodscape to inspect or repair an installed product.