

COTTAGE HOME

Distinctive Cottage Furniture & Farmhouse Tables

THE UNIQUE NATURE OF SOLID WOOD TABLES

Wood is composed of cellulose (a molecule with an affinity for water) and it is porous; as a result, it is vulnerable to humidity. When moisture in the air increases (i.e. humidity rises), wood absorbs water and swells a little; when the air dries out (i.e. humidity decreases), wood gives off moisture and shrinks. These responses to changes in humidity can weaken glue joints, can cause wood to split or crack, and may damage its finish slightly.

Please note: the finish on your wood table will continue to cure and harden over the next 30 days. Please use extra caution during this time not to leave any liquid on the tabletop; use coasters and hot pads for all hot and/or wet items to avoid any unwanted marks.

Our wood tables are constructed from real trees and/or solid planks of reclaimed wood, and professionally dried to 6 - 12% moisture content before any build. Solid wood adjusts to the moisture content in the air at different times of the year. In a sense, wood breathes just like us. Therefore, the temperature and humidity of your home will affect how your table behaves. You may notice your table and/or breadboard move slightly or develop small check cracks or dips. You may also notice lifting on the epoxy or resin fills. THIS IS NORMAL. This is the inherent character of wood and is not considered a defect in material, nor will it affect the structural integrity of the table.

To avoid excessive warping or cracking with your table, a cool environment (72 degrees) with a relative humidity of about 45 - 55% and a little bit of air movement is said to be ideal for wood objects in general. Change thermostat settings gradually as seasons change. A sudden change in temperature or humidity is the worst thing possible, as moisture will be sucked out of, or pushed into, the material far too quickly, causing tension inside it. Avoid extremely hot plates/mugs; water should not be allowed to stand for long periods of time (including spills and condensation). Also avoid vinyl table cloths and glass tops, as they can prevent air circulation and may cause warping. Do not place any colored felt on your table under a water vessel; the color could bleed.

It is also important to remember that placing your table in front of a window with lots of direct sunlight can dry out the wood and may cause cracking and splits. Light is a natural enemy of all organic materials; it is especially harmful for wood because the damage is cumulative (meaning it gets worse over time) and irreversible. Light can turn light woods dark, and bleach out dark woods. We suggest sun control window film or blinds if leaving exposed to direct sunlight on an ongoing basis. We also advise you to avoid placing your wood table on a floor that has in-floor radiant heating, as the constant heat will absorb any of the moisture left in the wood, and will further promote splitting and cracking.

With a little extra care and attention, your solid wood table will age gracefully and develop additional characteristics over the years. It is important to remember that, like a person's freckles or beauty marks, check cracks or splits are natural and bring a special beauty to every piece. So, embrace your table's "uniqueness". There is none other like it!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at info@cottagehomefurniture.com or 866-223-2757. Please see our product care guide for tips on how best to care for your wood table