



INSTRUCTIONS

Regular maintenance and care will help to lengthen the lifespan of your table tops and ensure they look as good as possible, for as long as possible. The following guidelines apply to both solid wood and laminate table tops.

A common mistake made when caring for table tops is the use of cleaning materials containing abrasive compounds, acidic or caustic reagents, strong bleaches containing oxidising reagents and anti-bacterial products. All of these products have been proven to cause irreparable damage to even the toughest contract finishes. Similarly, the use of furniture polishes containing Silicones should be avoided as they too can contaminate the finish surface and cause problems if the furniture finish ever needs repairing in future.

The following are best practice when caring for your table tops:

- Do not let dust settle as it attracts moisture and when accumulated it may soften the finish of your furniture.
- Clean with a damp cloth and mild detergent, rinse clean and then completely dry with a soft cloth afterwards.
- Immediately wipe off stains of substances such as bleaches, strong mineral acids and fruit juices to avoid permanent staining.
- Do not let any spillage of moisture seep between joints as the adhesive or substrate may be affected.
- NEVER use harsh scouring powders, concentrated abrasive or solvent cleaning products.
- Do not apply polish to the surface as it can lead to smearing and marking.
- Avoid scraping with sharp edged objects.
- Avoid prolonged exposure to high temperatures, be very careful with hot serving pans, candles, heated plates or similar; this is particularly relevant to lacquered table tops such as a solid wood, or veneered finish.

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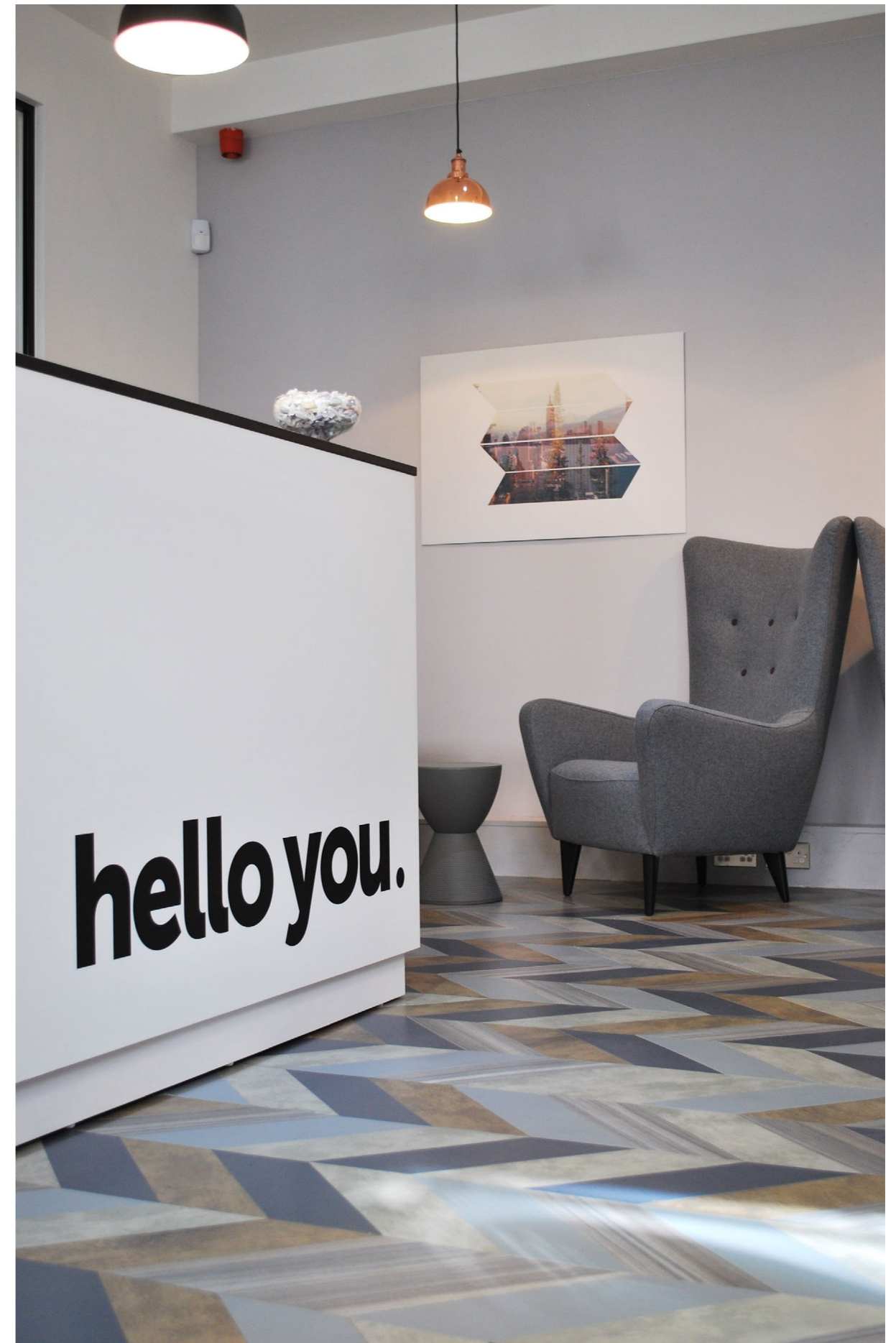
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CLEANING METHODS

With slight stains (light staining, dust): wipe with a dry or damp cloth. Normal stains (dirt, soil, oil, fat, finger marks, rust, juice, coffee, tea, blood, wax): wipe with a cloth dipped in water and mild detergent.

If your laminate becomes stained, it is likely that it will be permanent. You can try the following methodology for resistant stains, but be aware that you may cause further irreparable damage to the laminate itself. Test on a single area of one table first to minimise the damage.

Resistant stains: Remove stains (paint, varnishes, adhesives, lead pencil, ball point pens, felt tip pens, crayons, shoe polish, nicotine) by rubbing gently with water or an organic solvent such as methylated spirits, acetone, benzene or nail varnish remover. Rise clean with a damp cloth and then dry using a soft cloth.

Should you require any more information about this topic, please feel free to contact us.

STAINLESS STEEL TABLE BASES

Although dirt, oxide and salt will inevitably build-up on the surface of all grades of Stainless Steel, in most cases this effect could take at least 100 years before showing any physical deterioration of the base material thickness of over 1mm.

The corrosion resistance of stainless steel is due to the presence of a chromium-rich oxide film on the surface. This film will self-repair if damaged. It may also be possible to remove minor scratches by re-polishing with iron-free abrasives (such as nylon pads). DO NOT use ordinary steel wool.

Impurities and particles of other metals that find their way onto the surface of the stainless steel could eventually rust, unless cleaned or physically removed by re-polishing. Washing of surfaces will help to reduce contamination and visual surface deterioration. The use of Grade 316 Stainless Steel plus, a more regular washing regime is recommended for items exposed to salt-spray.

Stainless steel can be painted and this will considerably increase the product's life.

To help keep your stainless steel products looking as good as new for longer, we recommend that you wash them at regular intervals with soapy water.

Should you require any more information about this topic, please feel free to contact us.



Fig 01
Ice Cube Round table base.



SOLID TEAK OUTDOOR TABLES & TABLE TOPS

As Teak, or any solid timber is exposed to the elements in an external environment, its moisture content actuates in response to changing climatic conditions. In turn, this will lead to the material 'moving', with fissures and surface cracks opening and closing as an unavoidable natural process.

As Teak weathers, its colour will change - generally fading to a silver grey colour as the natural colour of the freshly sawn timber desaturates. There are a wide range of pigmented coating products on the market which can be applied to either newly supplied or aged timbers if a strong colouration of the timber is required throughout the lifespan of the product; although please note that this will necessitate regular ongoing maintenance.

In other words, there are varnishes and wood stains on the market which will alter the appearance of Teak wood, making it darker in colour. This however is a cosmetic process only and will generally have no effect on the lifespan of the furniture. For this reason, Teak is often specified due to its natural low maintenance requirements. Varnishes or other treatments introduce a requirement for a regular sanding/re-staining/varnishing regime once this process has been started. If left untreated regular cleaning with a mild detergent solution should be all that is required to maintain the wood.

Grease will stain Teak wood. Grease spots can be removed with a de-greasing agent, gentle scrubbing, followed by rinsing with cold water. Alternatively blotting the stain with an absorbent material allowing the elements to fade the stain naturally, and then gentle sanding of the area can also reduce the stains appearance.

Teak is a hardwood which has a tight grain, and naturally high oil content. This unique combination of properties makes Teak more suited to outdoor furniture applications than any other wood. However your furniture is not suitable for exposure to harsh environmental conditions such as very heavy rain, sleet and snow and will need to be moved into a dry storage area in extreme weather conditions. Solid teakwood furniture is not suited to a marine environment.

Teaks' high oil content means that any further wood treatments such as varnish or oil should not be necessary. 'Teak Oil' will not extend the life of the furniture. However be aware that without treatment Teak will naturally age to a silver colour.



Fig 02
Slatted Teak table top with Aluminium frame.



ZINC TABLE TOPS

Zinc starts out as a bright silvery finish. In time and with use, the finish will patina to a beautiful grey. With use, some areas will lighten in colour from mechanical abrasion in heavy scrubbing or high contact areas like the outer edges where clothing contacts the surface frequently.

Areas like the low spots of the edge detail or lower use areas of the top surface will darken. This is what gives the zinc surface the desired aged beauty and depth that comes naturally with this material.

Since the table top is solid zinc over a supporting structure, with minimal care and maintenance, it will last a long time.

The following are best practice when caring for your Zinc table tops:

- Use standard dish soap and water for cleaning – do not to use acidic based or calcium, rust or lime cleaners unless a brighter surface is desired.
- As time passes, small scratches will occur – however, as the surface ages, the abrasions will be minimal, and if they do occur, will blend and “heal” with standard use.
- This is a natural material which can stain and patina – wine may lighten darkened zinc.
- Tough stains or scratches can be minimized with a mild abrasive scotch bright pad or similar.
- As the zinc is used, the surface will condition itself to resist the severity and appearance of staining and abrasions.



Zinc table top with copper studding.

WHITE CARRARA TABLE TOPS

Marble is recrystallised limestone, 150 - 400 million years old and like all stone it is porous. For use the marble table top is bonded to a bonding board which is then fixed to the table base.

Marble can absorb liquids if allowed to rest on the surface long enough. There are two forms of marking that are possible:

- Pigment staining: For example if a damp tea bag was left on a white marble table it will leave a brown stain.
- Acid Etching: This happens when the acid in liquids we consume matte the honed surface of the stone. They include but are not limited to dry white wine, champagne, citrus juice's, vinegar's etc.

Cleaning should be done with a cloth and warm soapy water. Stubborn marks and pigment type staining can be removed with bleach solutions or white spirit. Acid etching cannot be removed, although can fade with time and develop patina.



Fig 03
Iron table base with White Carrara Marble table top.



White Carrara Marble table tops



Inside Out Contracts are contract furniture specialists for the hotel, leisure & restaurant industry.

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