

IT'S ALIVE!

SU CASA'S LIVING WOOD GUIDE

Caring for Your Solid Wood Furniture in the Mid-Atlantic

Unlike mass-produced veneers or synthetics, solid wood is a living, breathing material. It is naturally beautiful, incredibly durable, and — like us — sensitive to the environment.

UNDERSTANDING WOOD

THE SCIENCE OF "MOVEMENT"

Wood contains a specific amount of internal moisture. It constantly seeks "equilibrium" with the air around it.

In Summer: High humidity causes wood to absorb moisture and expand.

In Winter: Low humidity (common in MD/DE winters) causes wood to release moisture and contract.

THE "SEASONAL SPLIT"

When indoor air becomes extremely dry (typically below 30% humidity), the wood fibers may shrink faster than the structure can adjust. This can result in "seasonal splits" or gaps.

Important Note: These shifts are a testament to the authenticity of the timber. They are not structural failures or manufacturing defects; they are natural responses to the climate in your home.

MAINTAINING AN IDEAL ENVIRONMENT

To keep your furniture stable and minimize movement, we recommend the following:

Target Humidity: Aim to keep your home between 35% and 45% humidity year-round. A hygrometer (a small device to measure humidity) is a great tool for any wood-owner's home.

Humidify: During our dry winters, using a humidifier will not only benefit your furniture but also your own comfort and health.

Heat Source Placement: Avoid placing your furniture directly over floor vents, in front of radiators, or next to wood-burning stoves. Localized dry heat is the leading cause of dramatic wood shrinkage.

WHAT IF A CRACK APPEARS?

Don't panic! In many cases, as the seasons change and humidity returns in the spring, the wood will expand and these gaps may close on their own.

Stay Consistent: Focus on stabilizing the room's humidity rather than applying chemicals to the wood.

Minor Touch-ups: For permanent thin lines, a simple color-matched wax fill stick can be used to blend the area perfectly without affecting the integrity of the piece.

GENERAL WOOD CARE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Avoid direct contact between sharp objects and the surface to prevent scratching.
- Address spills immediately by wiping with a dry, soft cloth.
- Keep out of direct sunlight.
- Use coasters, trivets, and placemats for protection against hot or wet items.
- Dust regularly with a soft, damp cloth, followed by a dry one.
- Spot clean as needed with a soft cloth and mild soap.
- Do not use furniture polish, ammonia-based cleaners, or other chemicals as they will leave a wax buildup and will change the appearance of the wood over time.
- Avoid using abrasive cleaners, chemical solvents, strong detergents, furniture polish and cleaners with bleach.
- Always lift and carry when moving furniture; do not drag!





SIMPLE REPAIR GUIDE

USING WAX FILL STICKS

A Quick Fix for Natural Seasonal Splits

When solid wood reacts to dry winter air, it may develop a "seasonal split." While these often close on their own when humidity returns, you can easily mask the appearance of the gap using a Wax Fill Stick. This is the industry standard for maintaining high-end wood furniture.

What You'll Need:

- A furniture-grade wax fill stick
(matched to your wood finish)
- A plastic scraper
(a credit card works perfectly)
- A lint-free microfiber cloth

PRO-TIPS FOR A PERFECT RESULT:

Color Matching: If you are between two colors, always choose the darker shade. In wood grain, a slightly darker line looks like a natural mineral streak, whereas a lighter line will stand out.

Wait for Humidity: If the crack is very wide, we recommend waiting until you have stabilized your home's humidity (35%–45%) for at least two weeks before filling. This allows the wood to "settle" so you don't overfill a gap that is still moving.

It's Reversible: The best part about wax is that it is non-permanent. If the wood expands in the summer and pushes the wax out, you can simply wipe it away and re-apply if needed next winter.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Prep the Area

Ensure the crack is free of dust or debris. Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe the area. Do not use water or liquid cleaners, as moisture can cause the wood fibers to swell unevenly before you apply the wax.

2. Warm the Wax

Hold the wax stick in your hand for a minute or rub it between your palms. The warmth of your skin softens the wax, making it easier to apply and ensuring it bonds well with the wood.

3. Fill the Gap

Rub the wax stick back and forth across the crack (perpendicular to the split) until the gap is slightly overfilled. You want a small amount of "excess" wax sitting above the surface.

4. Level the Surface

Using your plastic scraper or a credit card, gently scrape away the excess wax. Hold the card at a 45° angle and move it along the direction of the crack. This levels the wax perfectly with the wood's surface.

5. Buff and Blend

Use your microfiber cloth to buff the area in a circular motion. This removes any wax residue from the surrounding wood and creates a seamless, natural-looking finish.



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