PAUL DOWNS CABINETMAKERS

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Furniture Care

There are a few things about the furniture that you should be aware of:

Finish: The furniture is finished with a catalyzed polyurethane. It is waterproof, but it If you spill on it, clean it up right away. Do not place hot items directly on the furniture – in particular, watch out for pizza boxes with hot pizza inside. Put these on a trivet which raises the box above the surface, or on several layers of cardboard.

It is best to provide coasters for drinks and to keep a roll of paper towels or napkins close at hand.

Avoiding Scratches: All wood finishes will pick up small scratches over time. Larger scratches can be made by sharp objects, which come in a surprising variety. Jewelry, unglazed mugs, some binders, and laptops with dented bottoms can all do damage. To maintain a pristine surface, **provide a mat or coaster for each use, and avoid dragging things across the surface.** We cannot be responsible for damage caused by foreign objects - this is a circumstance which is beyond our control.

For general cleaning, use a damp rag, or put a little dishwashing soap on the rag, and gently rub at encrusted dirt until it softens and loosens. Never use a scotch-brite or other abrasive pad on the table, or any abrasive cleaner. Some common household cleaners also contain strong solvents, so only use soap and water to clean it. Don't use wax or use furniture polish, and never put lemon oil on it - you will end up with a sticky mess. Do not use cleaners that contain ammonia or bleach, as they can cause spotting.

If you spill candle wax, it can be gently scraped off with the edge of a credit card - but don't use any metal implement for scraping.

Furniture made of unstained Cherry: Cherry darkens significantly in the first year of service. This happens when light – any kind of light – hits the wood. Avoid leaving objects sitting on the table for more than a week in the same place, or you will find a lighter spot where the object was. If this does happen, simply remove the object and the light spot will eventually darken to match the rest of the table. After the first two years, the table will be about as dark as it will get and you can leave objects in place for long periods.

Exposure to direct sunlight: This can cause bleaching of natural and stained woods, and in severe cases can cause the wood to turn grey and start to decay. (Wood has evolved so that direct UV exposure hastens breakdown of the cellulose in the wood – this is part of the natural decay process). If you have a room that has large windows,we recommend that the windows be coated with UV protective film.

Glass: DO NOT put a glass cover on your table yourself. If done without proper engineering of the top, this can cause the table top to warp. We can design the table with a glass top, or you can use placemats.

Weight restrictions for tables: DO NOT sit or lie on the table. The maximum weight which can be placed in a single spot is 50 lbs.

Refinishing: should your furniture receive severe damage, it can be stripped and refinished. Contact us for advice as to how best to handle this.

If you have any questions please contact us and we will help you. Enjoy your furniture!