



THE NATIONAL TRUST

TREASURE FOREVER

Caring for furniture

Treasure yours forever with this handy guide

Much furniture in your home will be made from wood, though some items may include metal, stone, plastic, glass or textile elements. Use these tips to prevent damage, but seek specialist advice on methods of care best suited to each material.

■ Even a few drops of spilt liquid will leave light or dark stains on wood and other materials. Place waterproof mats underneath any plants or flower vases and move them elsewhere to be watered.

■ Flat surfaces in good condition need only light dusting with a clean, dry microfibre cloth or lint-free duster with hemmed edges. A carved or raised surface needs a natural bristle brush; catch the falling dust with a vacuum cleaner.

■ Apply wax polish to wood once a year, using a soft paste wax, such as National Trust furniture polish; avoid using aerosol polishes, except on modern synthetic finishes; the solvent can dissolve other finishes and cause a surface 'bloom'.

■ Only move one piece of furniture at a time, between two people, and always lift by the lowest solid part of the main frame. Remove marble, glass and other detachable parts and carry vertically.

■ Monitor the condition of your furniture regularly and deal with any problems as soon as possible. Consult the Trust's *Manual of Housekeeping*, or ask a professional conservator for advice via www.conservationregister.com

Extracted from 'Household Secrets: Advice from National Trust Experts' (2006) by Frances Halahan, © The National Trust.

What will you treasure forever? Enter our competition and your favourite possession could be displayed at a National Trust property near you. Visit www.treasureforever.org.uk for details.

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