

General Ipe Information

Our Ipe wood furniture comes in a natural finish. No stain has been applied to our Ipe furniture. Maintenance requirements are minimal and vary depending on where your Ipe furniture is placed.

For Ipe furniture that receives full exposure to the elements, you can let the wood weather naturally or you can occasionally apply an oil finish (as described below). For Ipe furniture placed in a covered or shaded location, oiling is rarely needed. Wood sealants or varnish should not be used on Ipe furniture.

Our Ipe wood furniture is generally left outdoors in the sun, rain and snow. Over time, the UV rays in sunlight will mellow the natural dark brown color of Ipe wood into a handsome pewter gray. Even if the color fades, the structural integrity of this long-lasting Ipe furniture remains strong and sturdy. Water damage, bugs or wood rot will not be a problem with your Ipe furniture. For outdoor furnishings an occasional oiling will help preserve the natural color of the wood from the fading effects of the sun.

Basic oiling consists of applying Tung oil 2 - 3 times a year. Tung oil is inexpensive and is available at any hardware store. Simply wipe Tung oil on your Ipe furniture with a rag, and wipe off any excess after 30 minutes.

Even better than Tung oil is a UV-resistant penetrating oil called Penofin Exotic Hardwood Finish. Simply brush Penofin on your Ipe wood furniture 1 - 2 times a year, and wipe off the excess with a rag after 30 minutes.

It is best to let your Ipe furniture weather for 30 - 60 days before the initial oiling so that the oil can better penetrate the dense wood.

In some cases your Ipe furniture may need to be cleaned, such as if tree sap drips on the furniture or if mildew develops. Use a stiff brush and soapy water followed by a rinse with the hose, or you may use a standard wood cleaning product such as tri-sodium phosphate. The natural wood coloring can be refreshed in heavily weathered Ipe furniture with thorough sanding followed by an application of oil.

Like all woods, Ipe will exhibit some checking, or small surface cracks, as a result of exposure to the temperatures and elements. These surface cracks do not affect the structural integrity of the wood. Checking is minimal in Ipe, which is a reason for its popularity as a decking wood.

