

CARE & STORAGE

INTRODUCTION

Herein we address the most important aspects of preserving a good woodwork installation. Storage, jobsite conditions and relative humidity requirements before, during and after installation.

CARE

All construction related products, regardless of material, have particular care and storage requirements. Woodwork is not unique in this respect.

Architectural woodwork should be treated like fine furniture, particularly that which is constructed of wood finished with a transparent finish system. Modern commercial finishes are durable and resistant to moisture.

FINISH MAINTENANCE - With the exception of true oil-rubbed surfaces, modern finishes do not need to be polished, oiled, or waxed. In fact, applying some polishing oils, cleaning waxes, or products containing silicone may impede the effectiveness of touch-up or refinishing procedures in the future.

Remove oil or grease deposits with a mild flax soap, following the directions for dilution on the container.

No abrasives, chemical or ammonia cleaners should be used to clean woodwork surfaces.

Routine cleaning is best accomplished with a soft, lint-free cloth lightly dampened with water or an inert household dust attractant. Allowing airborne dust, which is somewhat abrasive, to build up will tend to dull a finish over time.

IMPACT - Avoid excessive or repetitive impact, however lightly applied. The cellular structure of the wood will compact under pressure. Many modern finishes are flexible and will show evidence of impact and pressure applied to them.

HEAT - Avoid localized high heat, such as a hot pan or plate, or a hot light source, close to or in contact with the finished surface.

PHOTODEGRADATION - Avoid exposure to direct sunlight as this may alter the appearance of woodwork over time.

HUMIDITY - Maintain the relative humidity around the woodwork in accordance with the guidelines published in these standards, every hour of every day, to minimize wood movement.

MOISTURE - Architectural woodwork, when properly finished, is relatively durable and resistant to moisture. Prevent direct contact with moisture, and wipe it dry immediately should any occur. Allowing moisture to accumulate on, or stay in contact with, any wood surface, no matter how well finished, will cause damage.

OXIDATION - Is a reaction of acids in wood (e.g., tannic acid), with iron, oxygen, and moisture, whether this be relative humidity or direct moisture. Control of moisture is a simple way to protect wood products from stains as a result of oxidation.

ABUSE - Use the trims, cabinets and fixtures, paneling, shelving, ornamental work, stairs, frames, windows, and doors as they were intended. Abuse of cabinet doors and drawers, for example, may result in damage to them as well as to the cabinet parts to which they are joined.

CLEANING - should be routine and accomplished with a soft, lint-free cloth lightly dampened with water or an inert household dust attractant. Allowing airborne dust, which is somewhat abrasive, to build up will tend to dull a finish over time:

- Remove oil or grease deposits with a mild flax soap, following its directions for dilution.
- Do not use abrasives, chemical or ammonia cleaners on fine architectural woodwork surfaces.

REFINISHING - Contact a local Sponsor Association member / affiliate, to explore the options for repair or refinishing. It is often cost effective to replace damaged woodwork elements rather than attempting large scale, on site refinishing.



CARE & STORAGE (continued)

RELATIVE HUMIDITY AND MOISTURE CONTENT

The space in which architectural woodwork is to be installed should be engineered with appropriate humidity controls to maintain its optimum relative humidity. Wood for architectural woodwork manufacturing use needs a moisture content within an optimum range.

A major cause for failure in architectural woodwork is the lack of controls for maintaining a consistent, year-round, appropriate relative humidity in a building or building space. Wood is susceptible to movement, shrinkage, expansion and warpage when exposed to air that has not been humidified. Without considerations made to properly regulate the relative humidity in any space containing architectural woodwork, some degree of failure of the woodwork can be expected.

Relative humidity outside the range shown on Table RG-011 for the respective region is particularly harmful to wood and wood products.

This table is intended to establish a range in which architectural woodwork can be properly stored, acclimatized, installed and maintained.

The most important effect of temperature is the effect it has on altering relative humidity levels. See Table RG-012. Once a controlled humidity and temperature environment has been established the humidity shall be maintained without sudden changes, especially repetitive changes. It is suggested that daily / monthly range vary no more than 10° F (5.6° C) degrees and 15% relative humidity.

The table and map that follow (adapted from USDA's *The Wood Handbook* (latest edition), published by their Forest Products Laboratory, fpl.fs.fed.us/index.php) shows the Optimum Moisture Content and the Indoor Relative Humidity required to hold such moisture content within the general areas of the United States and Canada.

SOME OF THESE AREAS HAVE ADDITIONAL MICRO-CLIMATES NOT SHOWN OR REFERENCED.

