

# Gabriel Furniture – Care and Maintenance

## Wood Furniture

Dusting is a key factor in maintaining your wood furniture. A clean, soft cloth is all that is needed most of the time. Apply a small amount of furniture polish on the cloth being used, rather than directly on the wood. While Thomasville does not endorse a particular furniture care product, we are aware that quality products such as SC Johnson's Pledge works well on higher sheen finishes and SC Johnson's Pledge Clean and Dust works well on lower sheen finishes. Be careful to always follow the manufacturer's instructions on the products you purchase.

- Use coasters, cosmetic trays or saucers beneath drinks, potted plants, or anything that contains liquids. Left standing, liquids can cause white circles in your finish and if left for long periods can cause the finish to lift from the wood.
- Direct sunlight can damage your furniture. Steady, prolonged exposure can cause fading or create hairline cracks. Therefore, keep your furniture away from open windows or heating and air conditioning sources. Close proximity to these sources can also adversely affect the moisture content of your wood.
- Do not allow synthetics, rubber, or plastics to rest on your wood finish for prolonged periods of time as they might contain chemicals that can damage the finish. Oils may also cause your finish to deteriorate. While fabric tablecloths and cork-backed place mats tend to be finish friendly, remember your table likes to breathe and guests can sometimes spill beverages which may seep through a mat without your knowing. Therefore, enjoy the natural beauty of your wood furniture.
- Take care not to overload your curio or china glass shelves. When placing heavy or numerous items on a single shelf consider appropriate weight distribution.
- If doors or drawers do not appear to fit properly, first check to see whether your furniture is sitting level on the floor. If not, you may want to adjust any leveling glides as described in the information received with your furniture. Furniture can settle into carpeting or rugs. If drawers and doors begin to bind, the leveling glides may need to be adjusted.
- If you need to remove one of your drawers please follow this procedure: For a drawer with nylon wheel guides, look for levers on either side to release the drawer. To remove a drawer with wood guides, bring the drawer forward as far as it will go, then with one hand on each side of the drawer, give it a firm pull. This will release the drawer stop. The drawer stop will automatically engage when the drawer is reinserted.

- When moving your bed, always disassemble it first. Moving a wooden headboard or footboard without doing so can exert undue stress on the rails causing a crack or separation.
- For comfort and durability, please ensure the appropriate support system is installed with your bed.

## **Fabric Upholstery**

- Proper placement of your upholstery in your environment can contribute to its life. You will want to avoid placing your upholstered furniture in direct sunlight, which can weaken the fibers, cause fading, and make it more vulnerable to tears. Also, heat vents can be a contributing factor to fabric and foam premature deterioration.
- Remember to vacuum your furniture often. For a thorough cleaning, make sure to remove all cushions and draw the vacuum's crevice attachment along the edges, seams and any recesses. This will help prevent dust, as well as other debris, from becoming embedded into the fabric.
- As your family settles comfortably into a sofa, loveseat or chair, "comfort wrinkles" will begin to develop. To keep wrinkles to a minimum, fluff and turn detached cushions and pillows regularly. While it is possible to minimize these wrinkles, please bear in mind, they are a normal part of the maturing of an upholstered piece of furniture.

## **Fabric Cleaning**

The recommended method for cleaning your furniture has been established at the mill of origin and is based on the fabric's content and construction. You can find the cleaning code for your fabric-upholstered furniture most often either under the center seat cushion or on the dust cover located on the bottom of the piece. Follow manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning your upholstery.

## **Leather Upholstery**

- Leather should be dusted regularly. Use a soft, white cloth to clean your furniture. The soft brush attachment on your vacuum cleaner may also be used.
- "Comfort wrinkles" will naturally develop as you settle into your new chair or sofa. To keep wrinkles to a minimum, fluff and turn detached cushions and pillows regularly. While it is possible to minimize these wrinkles, please bear in mind, they are a normal part of the maturing of an upholstered piece of furniture.
- If you have a spill, blot the spill dry immediately with a soft, clean cloth.

- Avoid placing your leather furniture in front of windows, under skylights or in places that expose them to direct sunlight.
- Maintain a safe distance between furniture and heat sources. Prolonged exposure to heat sources can cause leather to dry out.
- Avoid using ink pens, nail polish, nail polish remover, or other harmful household products near your leather furniture in order to avoid possible spills, which may cause permanent damage.
- Avoid placing newspapers or magazines on the surface of your leather furniture as the inks may transfer onto the leather causing permanent damage.

### **Stone & Marble**

Marble is a stone, but should not be treated as if it were indestructible. It is porous, and can easily stain. Acids found in citrus juice, soft drinks, and alcohol will damage marble, since it is alkaline in substance.

- Wipe off anything spilled on marble immediately by blotting, as you would on a wood surface.
- Avoid setting beverage glasses directly on marble as they can leave rings.
- Avoid placing hot pots or serving dishes directly on your marble top.
- Do not use abrasive cleaners on marble.
- Use felt cushions under ceramics, lamps, and other objects that could scratch your marble.