



# CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE OF ALUMINUM PATIO FURNITURE

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PURCHASING NEW ALUMINUM PATIO FURNITURE IS A BIG INVESTMENT AND YOU WILL WANT TO KEEP IT LOOKING GOOD AND SAFE FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. THIS CAN BE DONE BY FOLLOWING THESE EASY INSTRUCTIONS.

## WHAT DAMAGES YOUR FURNITURE?

The most damaging materials are suntan oils, human perspiration, and environmental pollutants such as unfiltered well or ground water, pollen from trees, exhaust and salty air. When these materials are baked by the sun into the finish/vinyl/fabric of outdoor furniture day after day without proper cleaning and waxing, damage will result.

In seaside use, salt accumulates on the furniture frames, and in indoor pool areas chlorides are the threat to your finish. In both of these environments, repeated cycles of condensation followed by evaporation causes a build-up of these aggressive corrosives that can lead to a finish failure.

Remember, it is important to clean ALL parts of your furniture!

## TOOLS/PRODUCTS YOU WILL NEED:

- Dawn Detergent (mild biodegradable liquid soap)
- Soft Sponge
- Soft Bristle Brush (and extension pole for umbrella top cleaning)
- Bucket
- Water Hose
- High Grade Automotive Liquid Wax

## CLEANING MIXTURE AND STEPS:

Combine 1/4 cup (2 oz.) of mild biodegradable liquid soap with one gallon of lukewarm water. Wet furniture with water using hose. Dip sponge (or brush) into a bucket of cleaning mixture and wipe down all parts of the furniture. After cleaning, rinse furniture thoroughly with hose.

Remember, never use abrasive cleaners or beach on your furniture!

## VINYL STRAPS:

Use soft sponge or brush, based on level of dirt/grime build up. Please note that with basket weave straps, be sure to lift and clean beneath the strap at strap intersections. Always clean tops and bottoms of straps.

## CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE OF ALUMINUM PATIO FURNITURE (PAGE 2)

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### **POWDER COAT FINISHES:**

Use soft sponge. Powder coat and painted finishes are used on aluminum frames and table tops, and even umbrella poles. In addition to frequent cleanings, additional protection can be gained with the use of a clear liquid car wax. Over time the finish may dull, just the same as if a car is not waxed.

Product used in a coastal environment may experience additional demands on the surface finish due to the salt in the air. Quarterly waxing of the frames is recommended to maintain a strong finish that will withstand the demands of this type of environment. This is recommended to clean away any buildup of salt residue and prevent the possibility of oxidation.

Severe oxidation on your aluminum frames can result in the bubbling of the painted finish that will eventually lead to a peeling/flaking of the paint. On the exposed metal, oxidation will appear as a white powder nestled in the frame's pitted surface. At this point, having frames re-finished (sandblasted and re-powder coated) is highly recommended.

### **SLING, CUSHION and UMBRELLA FABRIC:**

Use soft brush. When cleaning umbrellas, use the extension pole on open covers and use a ladder to ensure reach. The life of furniture fabric largely depends on its care. Fabric life can be extended simply by regular cleaning. Clean all spills promptly, clean regularly with Dawn, and in between deep cleanings rinse with water.

### **TABLE TOPS:**

Use a glass cleaner with ammonia.

## CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE OF ALUMINUM PATIO FURNITURE (PAGE 3)

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CLEANING IS JUST A PART OF FURNITURE CARE. TO SAFEGUARD YOUR INVESTMENT OVER TIME, REGULAR INSPECTIONS AND MAINTENANCE WILL KEEP YOUR FURNITURE LOOKING GOOD, WORKING AT MAXIMUM CAPACITY, AND SAFE FOR THE USER.

### **UMBRELLAS:**

Always close umbrellas in their stands when not in use, and always ensure they are locked into a heavy umbrella base. Umbrellas must always be removed from service in extreme windy conditions to protect umbrellas against damage, and to protect persons from potential injury due to umbrellas flying, toppling or otherwise moving unexpectedly.

If umbrellas become wet, open for a complete airing and make certain they are thoroughly dry before closing.

Occasionally lubricate the moving parts of umbrellas with a silicon lubricant spray. Caution: Do NOT get lubricant on furniture fabric or frame finish.

### **FRAMES:**

Regularly tighten all hardware to avoid loosening which can lead to bolt failure and product breakage. Replace missing hardware (remove product from service until repaired).

Regularly tighten the headrest bolts on all chaise lounges and recliners. Confirm movement is smooth without binding and that the back ratchet engages properly at each position.

Check for broken welds, particularly in areas that carry a lot of the weight. These areas tend to be where backrests meet seats on chairs, and in the buttock area of lounges.

### **GLIDES/END CAPS:**

Glides (often referred to as “nylon feet”) become worn with use or sometimes are lost, and should be replaced to ensure stability and safety.

Furniture should be checked annually for worn/missing glides and caps

Outdoor Furniture Connection inventories all parts put on new furniture, and we carry many that will fit other brands. Please contact us so that we can supply you with what you need. It is a small worthwhile investment on your furniture.