

## FEATURES OF SOLID WOOD

In all of our work, we strive to maintain the “spirit” and character of the wood. We celebrate unusual grain, knots, and mineral streaks. We welcome checks or cracks, which generally appear through the growth rings as wood adapts to its new environment. None of these are defects; instead they highlight the unique character of each piece of wood and reflect the specific conditions where the material took root.

Wood, being hygroscopic, will always try to maintain an equal moisture content within its cell walls to the surrounding air. In doing so, it adjusts its environment by shrinking as it loses moisture. All of our materials are dried prior to carving, but each piece will continue to acclimatize to its new surroundings after it has left our studio. The rate of drying will vary depending on the mass of the piece, but in general, each piece will “settle” within its first year. Shrinkage may accentuate checks or generate small new ones. These variations are part of the inherent beauty of the wood and have been considered in the design of your piece. Leg levellers are attached to each piece to provide proper air circulation between the wood and the flooring. Direct contact with the carpets or rugs should be avoided as fibers may stain the piece as it naturally releases humidity.

## CARE FOR YOUR SOLID WOOD PIECE

Your Brent Comber piece can be enjoyed for many years provided it receives the care and maintenance tailored to its finishing, intended use, and specific location.

Hardwax oil is a soft, natural finish that enhances grain and allows wood to breathe. It is among one of the most easily repairable wood finishes. In general, surface marks can be wiped away using a clean, damp cloth. All commercial cleaners and polishes should be avoided. Because your Solid piece is made to last a lifetime, you may need to re-apply the hardwax oil periodically according to the amount of wear and exposure it experiences. Our hardwax oil pieces are protected with OSMO Natural Wood Finishes. Please see the manufacturer’s website for tips on maintenance and re-applying: [www.osmo.ca](http://www.osmo.ca)

Catalyzed Varnish can be used to protect our Solid pieces from minor spills and scuffs. In general, surface marks can be wiped away using a clean, damp cloth. All commercial cleaners and polishes should be avoided, especially those containing lemon or acids of any kind. Deep scratches and discolouration due to moisture or heat may require professional refinishing to repair.

As with any wood finish, prevention is the key to longevity. Be diligent in wiping up liquids (especially alcohol), use coasters whenever possible, and never place hot vessels of any kind directly on the wood surface. With the proper care and maintenance you will keep your piece in peak condition and enjoy it for years to come.

