Materials + Maintenance.

Revision 003 - Jan 2023

furnitubes
shaping outdoor spaces

You will always find our most up to date materials and maintenance doc, here.

Schedule Of Materials and Available Finishes.

Cast Iron	• Primer painted with two pack high build epoxy primer • Primer painted (as above) plus a two pack epoxy acrylic high gloss coat
Concrete	• Acid etched (very finely textured surface) • Dressed (flat matt surface) • Ant-graffiti coating (as required)
Linear Low Density Polyethylene (LLDPE)	• Commonly used in rotational moulding • Available in multiple colours and finishes
Mild Steel	• Triple Processed (shot blasted, zinc primed and powder coated) • Hot Dip Galvanised (silver grey will weather in time) • Polyurethane Coating (2 part high gloss polyurethane applied onto suitable primer) • Polyamide Coating (smooth finish, generally black, achieved by dipping process)
Recycled Plastic	• Generally black or brown through-coloured
Stainless Steel	• Satin polished(other finishes available on request)
Timber	• No finish • UV protective coat • UV protective coat and sealed
Wood Plastic Composite (WPC)	• F6 Iroko through-coloured

Cleaning and maintenance requirements.

Coated metal parts.

Maintenance

We recommend products are removed from the packaging immediately after delivery to site, to avoid the possibility of adverse reactions with surface finishes.

For powder coated finishes it is important that the coating is cleaned regularly in order to retain the aesthetic qualities and maximize the life expectancy of the product.

The frequency of cleaning will depend upon the environment in which the products are placed but as a general guide an annual clean will suffice in most urban environments whereas in areas of high pollution, such as marine and swimming pool environments, cleaning should be carried out on a monthly basis.

Surfaces should be cleaned using a soft cloth, sponge or a natural bristle brush with a solution of mild detergent in warm water. Abrasive materials and/or chemicals that may damage the coating should NOT be used.

Minor repairs

Small localised chips and blemishes to powder coated surfaces can generally be repaired in-situ. The exact techniques will depend on the nature and extent of the damage but all typically involve the following processes:

- Clean the surface with a solvent-based degreaser
- Locally abrade the area to be re-coated with an abrasive paper and wipe clean Application of a thin coat of suitable primer
- Application of suitable top coat(s), matched to shade and gloss level of original coating by brush or spray

To ensure compatibility between the original finishes and any repair materials please contact Furnitubes to discuss the most suitable products to use.

Hot dip galvanised parts.

Maintenance

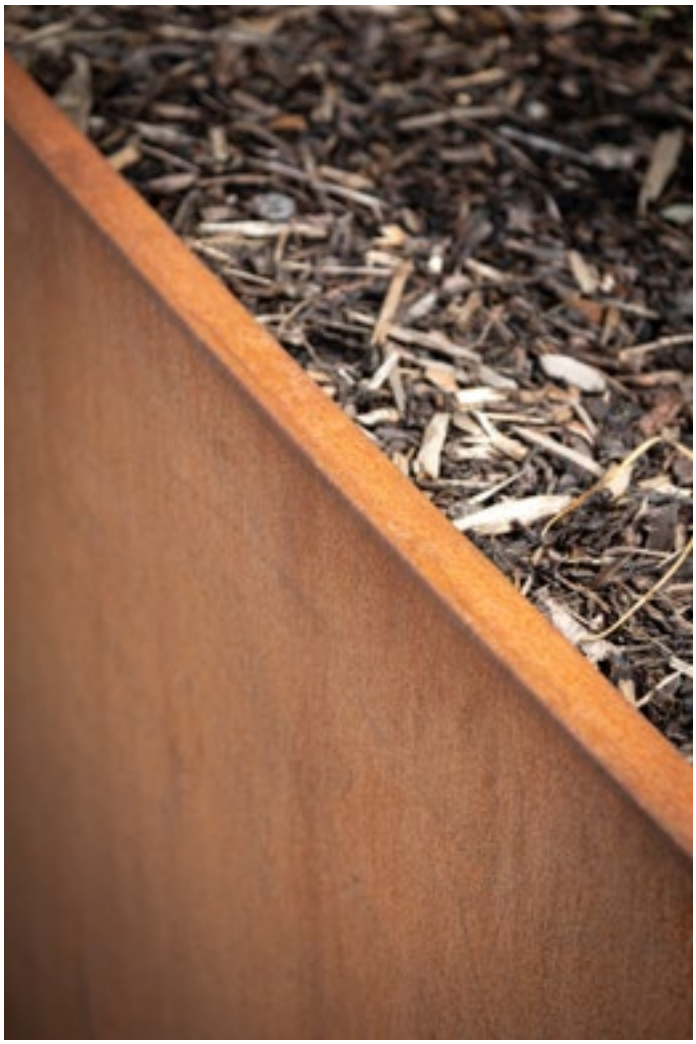
A galvanised finish does not generally require any specific maintenance in normal situations.

The frequency of cleaning will depend upon the environment in which the products are placed but as a general guide an annual clean will suffice in most urban environments whereas in areas of high pollution, such as marine and swimming pool environments, cleaning should be carried out on a monthly basis.

Minor repairs

Minor areas of damage through general wear and tear do not necessarily need repairing as the sacrificial action of zinc means that corrosion protection is not compromised. For more extensive and/or unsightly damage, a zinc rich paint can be used as a means of repair.

The Engineers and Architects Guide: Hot Dip Galvanising produced by the Galvanisers Association **http://www.galvanizing.org.uk** offers useful information on the performance and repair of galvanised surfaces.



Stainless steel.

Maintenance

It is important to keep stainless steel products away from dust contamination during building works in particular.

After installation, we suggest the surface is wiped down with water and detergent, or specialist cleaning agents if deposits are embedded. To maintain a 'factory finish', stainless steel may require an ongoing cleaning regime, the extent and frequency of which depends on the environment in which the product is placed.

Steel polish options

We offer 3 main finish options on stainless steel products each with different character and relative merits, outlined below.

Satin Polished

- Brushed effect with a distinct grain direction
- Good in most environments but pollutants may cause minor discolouration over time
- Marks 'with the grain' tend not to be noticeable; across the grain, marks may be more obvious
- Small marks can be easily repaired on-site with suitable abrasives

Bright Polished

- Highly buffed grain free finish but not fully reflective
- The smooth surface finish means contaminants wash off easier
- More highly polished surfaces generally show up marks more than other finishes
- Small marks can be polished out on-site

Bead blasted

- Distinctly textured matt finish
- Good in most environments, but microscopic deformation of surface can harbour contaminants which may cause discolouration
- The textured finish may disguise small or shallow markings
- Can't repair on-site. Requires re-finishing in the factory

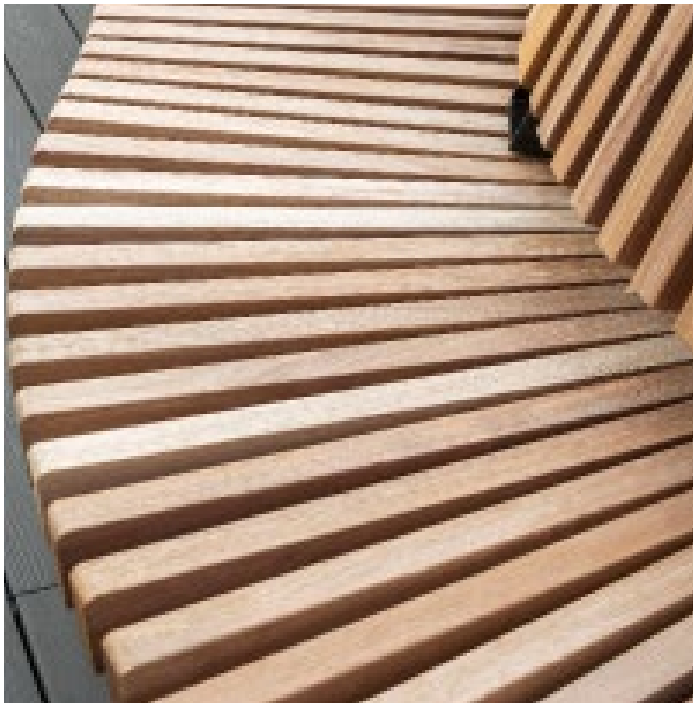
Timber slats.

Maintenance

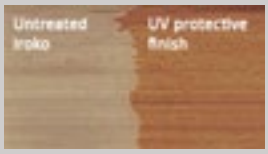
Applying a UV protective finish to Iroko will give a richer colouration over a longer time compared with untreated timber, as shown in the examples below.

In our experience, Iroko typically benefits from re-treatment on a bi-annual basis. The amount of work involved in restoring the timbers depends on their condition at the time and the desired appearance to be achieved.

As a minimum, a thorough clean and/or light sand is recommended. For a deeper clean, specialist restorative treatments can be used. Due to the many factors that can affect the appearance of timber placed in the external environment – including its natural colouration at the outset and the degree of exposure to the elements - we strongly recommend that maintenance coats are tested on a discrete area of a product to ensure the desired effect is achieved prior to the work being undertaken on the whole product.



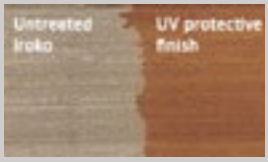
Freshly machined timber



Untreated timber
Iroko can range from a yellow to golden or even medium brown, sometimes all evident in a single board. It has a medium to coarse texture, with open pores and generally machines well to a smooth finish, except where interlocked grain may cause localised tearout.

With UV protective finish
Our UV protective finish gives a matt-sheen finish, which darkens and enhances the natural beauty of the wood. We offer this in a number of colour applications, teak being our most popular. Ask our sales team about other desired applications.

After 2-3 months



Untreated timber
After exposure to the elements, and in particular UV light from the sun, the natural colouration in iroko will soon begin to desaturate.

With UV protective finish
A treated surface may begin to dull slightly, but will retain far more colouration than untreated timber.

After 6 months

Untreated timber
Depending on the degree of UV exposure, the colouration in any natural timber can be almost entirely lost within 6 months, meaning it may have little resemblance to the original freshly machined material.

With UV protective finish
UV protective finished surfaces continue to show good colouration.

After 12 months

Untreated timber
Most timber in most situations will fade to a silver-grey within 12 months. Restoring natural colouration in weathered timber requires either exhaustive sanding down or the use of specialist restorative cleaners.

With UV protective finish
The finish will continue to dull down over time, but typically will not require re-coating until at least 2 years after the first application.

WPC slats.

Maintenance

Furnitubes' wood plastic composite (WPC) is easily cleaned using a damp cloth and a mild detergent or cleansing agent.

Any staining caused by oils from food or the like should be cleaned off immediately rather than being allowed to dry into the slats. Where this type of staining occurs, we recommend using a proprietary WPC cleaning product, such as Compo Clean from Owatrol, but please bear in mind that it might take several attempts to restore the slats to an acceptable finish.

WPC is coloured right through and so can be sanded back to its original state should there be a need to remove more stubborn stains or any acts of vandalism.

If you require any further information regading the specification, cleaning or maintence of your products then please **contact our technical department on +44 (0)20 8378 3200**

LLDPE Products.

(Linear low density polyethylene)

Maintenance

LLDPE requires little maintenance and is resistant to corrosion, most oils, solvents, fats, greases and gasoline, cutting, tearing and is virtually unaffected by the weather. Its relatively light weight makes for ease of installation. It is a coloured material, minimising the visual effect of paint damage or scratches. These properties make it an ideal material for use in street furniture.

Normal maintenance consists of wiping down with a damp cloth and soapy water. Detergents, cleansers and other cleaning agents are all suitable. 'Harsh' cleansers may also be used, although not on a regular basis as they may effect gloss level. High pressure jet washers can be used for a more thorough clean.

Concrete planters and seating.

Maintenance

An annual clean will keep the surface looking vibrant. Clean with water and mild detergent or a low pressure hose with a flat fan nozzle to help remove surface dirt. Degreasers and chemical cleansers are available for more stubborn grime.

Graffiti removal

In areas where graffiti is anticipated as a potential problem, consideration should be given to the application of a proprietary anti-graffiti coating. Various coating systems are available, each with different application methods, cleaning processes for removing graffiti and restorative work required after cleaning to provide on-going protection.

Please speak to our technical department for further information on the available options. Graffiti on uncoated concrete can be stubborn to remove and it is advisable to use personnel experienced and qualified in using dangerous chemicals and specialist cleaning equipment. A good starting point is to contact the Stone Federation Great Britain who could advise of a suitable local company.

Note: we would advise against the cleaning of graffiti using very high pressure water lances close to the surface with a focused jet. Water cleaning should always be undertaken with a good fan of water at an angle to the surface, otherwise there is a risk of etching cleaning lines into the surface of the concrete.

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