

## Care and Finish

**Your Forever Redwood Furniture will last decades in year-round weather with minimal maintenance.** You can expect your furniture or structure to last outdoors for at least 10-30 years, even in the harshest climates.



The photo shows a 15-year-old Luna Rocking Chair. This rocker was resealed (without sanding) only once 10 years after installation.

The longevity of your Forever Redwood structure depends on the [wood grade](#) you select, along with the length of your included [warranty](#). **The secret to longevity for outdoor wood is to keep the wood supple: don't let it get too dry and brittle, or too wet when in contact with the ground.**

**Being outside year-round is rough on any finished wood.** Wood surfaces absorb UV rays and pollution while undergoing constant variations in moisture and temperature. Oxidization also occurs, and causes the surface color to slowly change towards a silver patina. With Forever Redwood, you don't have to worry about needing to replace your furniture or structure after a few years: **Redwood is the most decay resistant wood that grows in North America, and we use the best sealant on the market to protect the wood and keep the gorgeous natural tones from fading quickly.**

**Recommendations to keep your furniture looking great and lasting longer** Although Forever Redwood pieces can be left out in year-round weather, we recommend that you follow a few simple steps to keep your set looking its best for decades. **Occasional cleaning is always a good way to spruce things up.** Hose and wipe down with a rag and a bucket of water. Use a soft brush followed by a wipe down with a rag for a deeper clean. You will be surprised at how much grime accumulates on your furniture and shade structure outdoors. Once you have wiped it as clean as you can, let it air out and then take a good look at the finish.

Note: Do not power wash your furniture or shade structure and do not use soap or chemicals. A rag and a bucket of water is all you need.

**The best way to tell if your furniture needs a new coat of sealant is to give your furniture or structure a good look over.** There is no hard and fast timeline for when to re-seal. Rather, see for yourself if the wood looks tired and dry. If so, go ahead and add another coat of sealant.

**How to Re-Seal your Forever Redwood piece:** For covered pavilions and gazebos, reseal only the exterior or the posts that are near the roof's edge. The rest of the structure is more protected and needs little resealing. For tables and benches just seal the exposed surfaces.



Heritage Picnic Table before and after sanded and resealed. This table was 10 years old when a strong hail storm hit it (note the many dimples in the wood).

Your order comes with a 4 oz bottle of sealant as part of your touch-up kit. This should be enough for most furniture items. **The rag used to apply the finish is an extreme fire hazard: it should always be burned and never stored.**

If you are planning to reseal your furniture every few years to keep it supple and looking its best, we recommend using the [Sikkens Proluxe Cetol Log and Siding Stain](#) but instead of the 072 Butternut, use the 078 Natural. The Natural will keep the old color better because it is almost completely transparent versus using the 072 Butternut that will darken your finish some each time.

**A few more pointers to consider:** We recommend re-sealing your furniture or structure rather than painting it. Painting outdoor wood actually lowers its longevity! Eventually, the paint seal breaks and the wood gets overly moist from rain. The paint actually keeps the wood wet longer and multiplies microbial action. When considering longevity as the most important factor, outdoor wood does better sealed rather than painted.

**Does your furniture creak when you sit on it?** If so, it may have lost a bit more additional moisture because of the new environment it now lives in. Check the nuts & bolts. You may find a couple need

tightening. Don't over do it – just go till you have resistance and then add a quarter turn and stop. If this happens at all, it is almost always within the first year as the wood acclimates to its new home.

**Worried about Termites?** We do not advise customers to use additional treatments (such as Copper Green). **Termites look for dry wood, and re-sealing your outdoor furniture or structure is the most fool-proof method to prevent decay of all kinds while keeping it shining and looking its best.**

**If you are resealing after many years of letting your furniture patina, try resealing.** If it is still looking dull, give it a day and then add a second coat of sealant. This should result in a darker finish with a lovely, deep satin look.

**Re-sanding:** If you prefer to make the finish look like it did when first purchased, you can sand down the item and start afresh. All Forever Redwood furniture is substantially over-sized. You can sand it without losing hardly any of the timbers' massive girth. You don't have to sand every nook and cranny to get great results, just do the most visible surfaces. **Use a 100 grit paper to go over the areas quickly, and then follow up a second time with 220 grit paper to remove the sanding lines and leave the surface finely sanded.** You can sand by hand or with an orbital or vibrating sander. Redwood sands easily. Once finished, dust off and add sealant. We apply 2 coats in the shop, and do so on warm dry days allowing 6 hours minimum between coats. Sealing adds oils back into the wood and leaves your set looking spectacular. When finished, burn the rag carefully (you do not want to store it because it will be at risk of self-combustion).

**For best results, we use only the Sikkens brand of sealants. For the exact sealants we use for each wood grade, please see Finish Options below.**

**More about Oxidization and the fade to Silver:** If you do allow your set's finish to eventually fade, the silver patina is only surface deep (less than 1/64") and is not indicative of decay. **Your set is not compromised by surface color changes.** We are often asked how the surface color will change if the wood is not refinished and allowed to gray, so we prepped this 4-minute video to show you how any piece of Forever Redwood furniture left outside for years can be turned back into a brand new piece in a couple hours:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0IXzW2woE4E&embeds\\_referring\\_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.foreverredwood.com%2F&source\\_ve\\_path=MjM4NTE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0IXzW2woE4E&embeds_referring_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.foreverredwood.com%2F&source_ve_path=MjM4NTE)