

Care Guide

Rubio Oil is tough. It can repel water, and most other household liquids from wine to cordial, and leave the surface unblemished, but only for a time (up to four hours). Nevertheless, we'd recommend you wipe up any spills as soon as you can, as every piece is unique and may stain more quickly than another. Caring for Rubio Oil As a general rule of thumb, clean up any stains as quickly as possible with a dampened e-cloth followed by a dry one. Surprisingly, water is the liquid that's most likely to stain your oak. This happens for two reasons, either from limescale staining or mineral reactions with the tannins in the oak. So be sure not to leave damp items on a timber surface – such as when you're unloading the dishwasher and not-quite-dry cutlery and crockery is placed inside cabinetry. When you do come to clean any Rubio protected pieces, it's tempting to buy supermarket cleaning products and wipes, but quite often they interfere with the wood's surface and leave a film, which, like furniture polish, can end up attracting more dirt. Instead, aside from a damp e-cloth, we suggest using our care kit that we've developed specifically and is available to buy on our website. Friction from usage and day-to-day cleaning will wear down the special waxes, and so to maintain the highest standard of protection, we suggest you lightly sand back your piece around once a year and reapply a new coat of Rubio following the steps below.

1. Sand the wood in the direction of the grain, never across it. The grade of sandpaper you use will have a great effect on the final appearance so make sure you use the same grade throughout to ensure a uniform finish. We suggest a grit of 150–180 or a 230 as provided to create a really smooth surface.
2. To remove all the dust, first vacuum the area with a soft bristle attachment then wipe with a dry e-cloth until there's not a trace of wood dust left. The preparation part is really important, otherwise the dust particles will become trapped, leaving you with a grainy texture and forming a barrier that will prevent the Rubio from working properly.
3. Now comes the application. Stir/Shake the Rubio well and use a cloth or non-absorbent sponge to spread it across the surface, moving the oil around and keeping the surface wet for three–five minutes.
4. Remove all excess oil for an even sheen and do so with a fresh, clean cloth. If this part isn't done thoroughly, a layer can be left that won't actually provide extra protection but instead could make the surface less durable and more prone to marking.
5. Once the Rubio is applied, the molecular reaction happens only a few minutes later. It's an oxidation process, and to cure properly it ideally needs strong airflow and 'normal' room temperature (that's about 20°C). The initial curing takes three–five days, but the full curing process is somewhat lengthy (21 days). During this time, you should treat the area with care because it's susceptible to marking. Colder environments and higher humidity will slow the process further. So, for those 21 days, you'll need to let it be as much as possible. You can of course still use your product after the initial curing, but be sure to use coasters and don't clean the surface with any liquid until the end of the third week. It's better to do it well every few years than to do it wrong and need to repeat the process much more frequently.

THE IMPORTANT PART - Always throw away your used Rubio cloth by dunking it in water and putting it in an airtight container while it's still wet. Leaving a Rubio cloth unwashed, in direct sunlight, or putting it straight in the bin can lead to spontaneous combustion.

All of our painted furniture uses solid pine on painted areas. It's incredibly strong and is ultra-smooth with very few knots, which makes it ideal for painting over.

Simply dust down with a dry e-cloth, and if you find a mark, it should come away easily with the simple swish of a damp cloth. But, if you've scuffed or chipped your paintwork, a duster won't be quite enough, and you might need to touch it up.

Touching up paintwork FOR LIGHT MARKS If your paintwork is marked with just a light scuff, rather than a chip or dent, lightly sand the area with 320-grit sandpaper (this keeps the finish smooth and helps the paint to grip). Then, wipe away and dust with a damp cloth followed by a dry one. If the mark is tiny, an artist's paintbrush may be all you need. If the scuff is larger, then use a wider paintbrush for more even coverage. Once the paint is thoroughly stirred, use a small amount of paint and spread it thinly over the mark. Allow the paint to dry (you can use a hairdryer to help it along) before applying a second coat. Once dry, decide whether you think a further coat is needed.

FOR CHIPS If you've taken a deeper chip out of the paintwork, you'll need to do a little more to prepare the area. If the dent is deep, sand the area with 320-grit sandpaper and then you might need to use some wood filler too. Once it's set, be sure to sand it again so the entire surface is level. Then follow the exact same steps as above. And, if in many years to come you'd like to repaint your furniture, you absolutely can. For best results, we suggest following the steps below put together by our furniture painting team.

1. First, ensure colour consistency. If you're using more than one tin of any colour, ensure the batch numbers are the same. If they're not, thoroughly mix together the contents of both tins before you start.
2. Now prepare your surface. Remove any sharp edges or flaking paint with fine sandpaper. There's no need to go back to bare wood, just sand enough to create a smooth surface. Then wipe away any dust with a dry cloth so it doesn't spoil the final finish.
3. If the wood has any cracks or dents, buy some wood filler and patch it following the instructions on the packaging. Once it's set, be sure to sand it again so the entire surface is uniform.
4. Give it a good stir beforehand and apply your first coat in the direction of the wood grain or of any existing brush strokes. It should dry within two hours and will be ready to recoat within four hours. Two coats are all you need.