Outdoor furniture buyer's guide.



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Tips for buying outdoor furniture.

- Measure and photograph your outdoor space before going shopping so you can refer to essential dimensions and consider how different options will fit and look in your outdoor living area.
- 2. Think about what you want to use the furniture for. Examples include formal dining (table and chairs), casual dining (tables with sofa-style chairs or bar sets), reclining or relaxing (sofas, loungers, sunbeds, hanging chairs), extra seating (benches, stools) or poolside (bench seats, casual seating or loungers).
- 3. Test out your choice before you buy sit in the chairs, feel the cushions, and check out other options in the range that could be added now or in the future. If you want the ability to move your furniture around on a regular basis, consider its weight. Too lightweight means it can move around in extreme weather but too heavy means it's hard to manoeuvre.
- 4. Don't forget shade and heat. Investing in an umbrella not only protects those seated in your outdoor area but also shades the furniture itself, keeping it out of harsh sunlight and prolonging its lifespan. Installing outdoor heating is a great way to extend your outdoor entertainment 'season'. Increasingly, infrared heaters are becoming popular as they're economical to install and run and provide targeted heat that is less affected by wind/ weather. We also have outdoor wood and gas fire options.
- 5. Make your outdoor living an extension of your home's living space. Often the outdoor area has the largest square meterage area of a home. Outdoor living spaces can add immense value to a home and create a whole new living and entertaining area. This can be achieved through the addition of outdoor kitchens, pergolas/ umbrellas, large dining sets and casual seating areas. We also have a wide range of BBQs if you regularly enjoy cooking and entertaining outdoors.

- 6. Mix and match materials. 4 Seasons' range of outdoor furniture has been thoughtfully curated to create a collection that allows complete customisation to suit different styles and functionality requirements. Our lounge, dining and casual furniture designs come in a range of complementary materials and colourways, available for separate purchase so you don't have to compromise.
- 7. Be honest about how well you'll care for the furniture. If you are time poor, opt for low maintenance and hardwearing materials and construction. Be aware that due to the harsh New Zealand climate, if you don't maintain and protect your furniture, it won't be as long-lasting and its appearance will likely become 'rustic' more quickly. Always store cushions under cover or indoors when not in use very few outdoor cushions on the market are 'all weather' and if they are, there's usually a trade off in comfort due to the materials used.
- 8. If you live near the sea or in a humid or wet location, avoid materials that will oxidise or rust. Oxidisation can occur incredibly quickly (in a matter of months even) if you don't keep your furniture clean and dry. Contrary to popular belief, even high-quality furniture can rust if it's not cared for or if exposed to certain conditions. Our care information below provides tips for maintaining your outdoor furniture.
- 9. Value for money is subjective but to an extent, you get what you pay for. Weigh up realistically how long the furniture is likely to last given its materials and construction, and whether or not you have time to care for it. Ask about the warranty. Although warranties are guarantees about structural integrity not how the appearance will last, warranties do give an idea of quality.

Features & benefits.

Teak

Teak is one of the rarest and most sought-after hardwoods in the world due to its strength and durability from the wood's naturally high levels of oil and silica. Teak is straight-grained and low lustre with a naturally coarse texture. It has a beautiful golden to medium brown colour that weathers off to a stunning silver-grey patina.

Teak is sourced from natural teak forests or plantations. Natural teak forests are only found in four countries, three of which the natural forests are in decline. These old-growth forests have incredible biodiversity and support a number of essential functions, including wildlife habitats, species diversity, nutrient cycles, nourishing local communities, carbon storage and numerous other ecological processes. Plantations provide carbon-storing and trees but lack the biodiversity of natural forests. The 4 Seasons collection of teak furniture is proudly constructed of reclaimed wood sourced from Indonesian homes, schools and buildings that have been replaced with modern infrastructure. All pieces of furniture have a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification.

The reclaimed wood in 4 Seasons outdoor furniture was initially sourced from old-growth forests, where teak trees are felled at between 100-200 years. These trees grow at a gradual rate due to partial sunlight and competition from surrounding trees. The gradual growth leads to the formation of tightly packed growth rings. Plantation teak is felled at 10-12 years and has wider spaced growth rings. Tighter-packed growth rings are the characteristics of stronger and more durable wood. Reclaimed wood has been exposed to all weather conditions already, meaning it has 'seasoned' and is less likely to warp or split than new timber.

Our teak collection has a selection of quality materials chosen to create comfortable, durable and stylish designs - foam cushion inners, textured olefin cushion covers, man-made wicker panels, rope detailing, powder-coated aluminium frames and more.

Wicker

Wicker is a popular style of outdoor furniture in New Zealand due to its traditional appearance and relatively low maintenance requirements. The 4 Seasons range uses man-made wicker with the highest possible addition of UV protection, handwoven around thick aluminium framing.

The benefit of using man-made wicker, rather than organic material, is that it's much sturdier and more durable while still offering the same look and feel as natural rattan. Man-made wicker is more resistant to moisture, mould and mildew and is coated with UV blockers that help prevent fading and wear.

Our man-made wicker is created from PVC resin that starts its life as round 3mm bullets. These bullets are preheated and UV protection is added before the final product is extruded and hand woven around aluminium framing. 4 Seasons wicker products have the highest possible level of UV protection added (3,000 hours). This addition costs the same as the resin product itself but is a must to ensure that the final product is longlasting and of good quality. Cheaper wicker may have little UV protectant added so be sure to ask if shopping around.

The other variable in a wicker product is its aluminium content. All 4 Seasons wicker products are handwoven around 2.5mm thick aluminium framing. A lot of products in the New Zealand market are only 1.6mm (some can be as low as 0.5mm). Based on the area of the tube, adding just 0.5mm thickness can double the weight and strength of the material.

Aluminium

Aluminium is a popular material for outdoor furniture. Aluminium is naturally corrosion resistant due to the natural protective cover it generates when it comes into contact with oxidising materials.

4 Seasons' range of aluminium outdoor furniture is finished with a beautiful and durable powder coat. Powder-coating is an extremely popular choice for outdoor furniture due to its exceptional durability, longevity and its eco-friendliness. Powder coating is a method of painting metal parts using a coloured powder sprayed onto an aluminium surface. Aluminium conducts an electric charge that causes the powder to adhere to the surface, without the use of any harsh chemicals to make it stick, which is then baked on. Powder coating is resistant to fading, chipping, scratching and wearing, making it well suited for exposure to environmental factors over long periods of time.

Another benefit that makes aluminium a popular choice outdoors is its lightweight nature. It weighs approximately one-third of the weight of steel with the same strength capabilities, meaning aluminium settings are easy to manoeuvre but extremely durable.

Cemento

4 Seasons' Cemento collection is designed to imitate the appearance of concrete. This look is achieved through the use of an acrylic coating that is baked over an aluminium framing. This technology is the latest in fibre imitation and produces an end product that looks and feels like cement, whilst being structurally durable, less likely to split and more comfortable than concrete or fibre cement.

Our Cemento range is lightweight, insulated and constructed from aluminium. This gives it durability and makes it a good choice for New Zealand's harsh environmental conditions. Over time it will take on a rustic weathered appearance just like concrete.

Kwila

Kwila (or Merbau) is a durable hardwood widely used throughout New Zealand for outdoor furniture and decking due to its durability and hardness. Kwila is no longer readily available and the NZ market has seen a steady decline in the quality of products that use this material.

All 4 Seasons Kwila was legally sourced and felled and we have the appropriate certification to support this. The Kwila was harvested on a sustainable basis through a quota system managed by the supplying government. The trees were selectively felled to harvest mature trees prior to them dying naturally, which in turn fosters the regeneration of forests.

It's important to be aware that Kwila 'bleeds', and there can be quite a lot of variation in colour and finish due to it being a natural wood product. The bleeding of the timber occurs when it is new and is wet by rain or dew. The material excretes a red sap during this process. The furniture needs to be kept off tiles or decking that will mark permanently during this process. It is difficult to remove from tiles but it can be done with Jif or a cutting compound and a lot of elbow grease. The bleeding process can be accelerated by setting a hose spraying continually to wash the timber for several days until the bleeding stops.

All our Kwila products have been manufactured to the highest specifications. The Sheraton table tops are a 38mm thick picture framed with 18mm cross members and with 3mm gaps between the cross members with radiused edges, and mortise and tenon joints for maximum strength.

Polywood

Polywood lumber is made from high density polyethylene resin (HDPE). It is long lasting and the most durable of all the plastic products. The HDPE primary raw material is derived from post consumer bottle waste from which plastic bullets are made. These bullets are then heated in a hopper and extruded hot through dies to create a lumber which is then processed into parts. It is far superior than injection moulded plastic as it is 10 times the thickness. The stainless steel hardware is rust resistant.

Care.

General care advice

- NZ's climate can make it a harsh environment for outdoor furniture. Strong sun, UV light, wind, rain, frost, humidity and dampness, proximity to seawater and airborne particles, like traffic emissions and pollen, are all factors that degrade outdoor furniture. Please follow the care instructions closely to keep your furniture in great condition.
- Fixtures and fittings can work loose as changes in temperatures cause materials to expand and contract. Regularly check your fittings. Tighten them up as need be but take care not to overtighten or wear away the protective coating on them. Even good quality fixtures and fittings can oxidise and rust in the elements. Most hardware stores sell stainless steel ones you can use for replacements as needed and you can also apply a proactive clear lacquer to provide further rust resistance.
- Avoid placing heavy or hot objects on glass tops. Although tempered glass, if broken it will shatter.
- Fabric chair slings and cushions can be protected with a fabric guard. Simply brush off any dirt. If required, wash with soapy water or water blast.
- Rusting and resulting corrosion usually only occurs if furniture is left uncared for.
 'Tea staining' or early signs of oxidation can occur quickly due to the elements, but can be removed with a cleaning product like Bar Keeper's Friend. The use of maintenance products like this will help to avoid the deterioration of the structural integrity of the furniture over time. For customers in areas close to the sea be aware that salt water corrodes metal five times faster than fresh water. Even high quality stainless steel can rust it left uncared for.
- All outdoor cushion covers in the 4 Seasons range are made from olefin material for optimum comfort. Olefin is a 100% recyclable synthetic material that has been specially designed for use outdoors. It has a UV blocking rate of 97% and is colour fast to weathering and rubbing, as well as chlorinated

- pool water and seawater. The fabric has been treated to reduce the absorption of soils and stains, repel water and inhibit microbial growth. These are not all-weather cushions so should be kept dry (do not leave out in the rain). To prolong their life, store inside or under cover when not in use to avoid sun and weather damage. We recommend using a protectant such as Scotch Guard on your cushions.
- Avoid letting water stand on the surface of your furniture and cushions. Before covering, furniture needs to be thoroughly cleaned and dried. If using a furniture cover, ensure you periodically uncover your furniture and let it dry out so as not to let moisture form from changes in temperature or rain.

Teak

Teak's natural hue is a golden-medium brown colour. It will weather off to a silver-grey patina. This can be left, sanded back to its original colour or oiled depending on personal preference.

Teak can be spot cleaned using a hose to spray off any debris and brush off dirt or debris with a soft bristle brush. Drying and cleaning furniture each week will help reduce microbial growth. Spores that create mould and mildew thrive in environments with dirt and moisture.

For more thorough cleaning, we recommend the use of:

- Golden Care® Hardwood & Teak Cleaner to clean and restores discoloured, dark grey teak back to its original honey brown colour.
- Golden Care® Teak Shield protects teak and other hardwood furniture to repel water and stains. The shield also helps protect against mould, mildew and ultraviolet rays.
- · Golden Care® Teak Protector to maintain the finish colour.

Wicker

All wicker should be kept clean, as dry as possible and free of dirt, pollen, spider webs and bird droppings. Anything acid or alkaline can damage the wicker and cause the UV protection to degrade, the colour to fade and the wicker to weaken and even split along joins.

Water blasting or hosing down regularly and then drying off with an old towel is the best way to clean the wicker. Using chemical cleaners such as spray and walk away products or mould-killing products will damage the wicker and are strictly not to be used.

Products designed specially as wicker protectors can be applied with a soft cloth to further protect the wicker and restore its colour.

Aluminium

Keep clean and dry and avoid scratching or abrasive cleaners. If any chipping occurs to the aluminium, immediately sand back lightly and touch up with a matching outdoor paint. The products can be washed with warm soapy water and water blasted.

Cemento

It is important that Cemento products are kept clean of dirt and other particulates. Cleaning products are not recommended, simply use a soft brush or cloth to remove any particulates and then clean with warm soapy water and dry with a soft towel.

Kwila

Kwila will 'bleed' its reddish colour when it rains. Ensure you keep the furniture off surfaces it could stain during this process. Accelerate the process by hosing the furniture over time. We recommend the use of furniture covers once the bleeding stops.

The maintenance required for Kwila is applying outdoor furniture oil on a regular basis. A natural decking oil is recommended, available from most hardware stores. The frequency of oiling depends on how often the furniture gets wet, if it's in direct sunlight or wind, and other environmental factors. Generally, the more it is exposed to these harsher elements the more frequently it will need oiling, especially in the first 12 months. To avoid it drying out to the point of large cracks/splits (as opposed to natural cracks/splits that occur naturally in wood), monitor the furniture more closely in the first year, applying oil as needed.

Once Kwila 'bleeds' away its reddish colour, the surface turns a silvery grey colour. It can be restored to its original condition by sanding back 1-2mm from the surface (depending on its age) and then applying a furniture oil. If this is done the furniture will bleed again, albeit less than the first time.

Poly Wood

Keep clean from dirt and avoid cleaners which can degrade UV protection (such as chemical cleaning products). It can be washed with warm soapy water and a soft cloth or brush and then hosed off and dried.

Outdoor furniture warranties.

General warranty information

Warranty applies to the original purchaser, with valid proof of purchase (you must retain your sales invoice). Please let your sales consultant know if the product is intended for commercial use as warranties may not apply. All warranties are manufacturer's warranties covering defects in manufacturing or workmanship (i.e. structural only).

All 4 Seasons outdoor furniture warranties are managed by our friendly after-sales team, based at our support office in Nelson. This is to provide expert technical advice and the most timely resolution.

To submit a warranty claim or enquiry, follow the link on our Support page. You will need the following ready to submit:

- Proof of purchase (to show it is within the warranty period; under consumer law, the onus is on you to retain this)
- Photos of the issue: a close-up photo of the affected area and a photo of the whole product are required. If multiple items are affected, send multiple photos (e.g. 2 chairs = 2 photos)
- A written description of the issue (must be an issue covered by warranty. Note the exclusions opposite)

Please be aware the following are not covered by warranty:

- · Accidental or intentional damage
- · Natural fading or discolouration
- Splitting either due to the natural nature of the material (e.g. wood) or lack of care (e.g. not oiling wood furniture)
- Deterioration due to natural wear and tear over time and from the elements
- Furniture damaged during transportation or delivery - ensure you unwrap and check goods when they arrive before signing for them and if any freight damage has occurred, note this damage on the con/delivery note.
 Visit our Support page for more information and contact us immediately.
- Goods used for commercial, contract or nonresidential use (unless by prior approval)
- Cosmetic damage like chipping, scratching or staining of surfaces
- Rusting (refer to care advice above)
- Furniture sold as seconds due to pre-existing damage/issues

Warranty periods

Teak

- · Frame 3 years
- · Acrylic sling 3 years
- · Wicker panel 3 years
- · Olefin cushion cover 3 years
- · Polyrope 2 years
- · Cushion inner 1 year

Aluminium

- · Frame (aluminium) 3 years
- · Olefin cushion cover 3 years
- · Frame (steel) 2 years
- · Acrylic sling 2 years
- · Wicker 2 years
- · Cushion inner 1 year

Wicker

- · Frame 3 years
- · Olefin cushion cover 3 years
- · Glass table top 1 year
- · Cushion inner 1 year

Cemento

· Frame - 3 years

Kwila

- Frame* 5 years
- · Acrylic sling 1 year
- *Except Sheraton Sling Chair frame 3 years

Poly Wood

• Frame - 3 years

Assembly information.

We all have varying degrees of skill when it comes to assembling flat pack furniture. For customers looking to outsource assembly, we recommend the use of Kitset Assembly Services (4 Seasons does not offer assembly services at this stage). A professional and efficient nationwide company that offers the following services:

- Product assembly
- · Packaging removal
- · Pick up and delivery

Visit their website at <u>www.kitsetassemblyservices.co.nz</u> to learn more or book one of their services today.

