



TEAK UNIVERSITY

A.R.B. Teak lives and breathes Indonesian teak furniture. It's because of this passion that we're committed to sharing our wisdom and knowledge so that you too can become a teak expert.

We truly believe the more you learn about teak, the more you will not only come to see it as the only solution for bath and spa furniture, but also come to fall in love with it – like we have!

Welcome to TEAK U.

Subscribe to TEAK U
by emailing us at
info@arbteak.com



Teak & Specialties



Welcome to class

A.R.B. Teak presents TEAK UNIVERSITY (TEAK U), an educational series focused on teak and the innumerable benefits of working with teak in the bathroom.

In the ever-growing frontier of online shopping and marketplaces we realize choice is everywhere. *A.R.B. Teak* believes the best way to make the right choice when it comes to choosing teak is **accurate knowledge and experience.**

Many internet-based teak retailers have popped up in recent years. However, we've noticed their product knowledge, customer service and hands-on experience remains limited.



But first a little bit about



It might seem like teak furniture is available almost anywhere these days, at wildly varying price points and claims of quality. One thing is for sure: you won't find the same commitment to variety, style and above all quality than you will at *A.R.B. Teak*.

A.R.B. Teak lives and breathes Indonesian teak furniture. It's because of this passion that we're committed to sharing our wisdom and knowledge so that you too can **become a teak expert.**



A.R.B. Teak stands for



Partnership

We are partnered with the Indonesian people, spear-headed by a master wood engineer. This ensures North American quality-assurance standards are met and no corners are being cut before the furniture reaches you.



Craftsmanship

All *A.R.B. Teak* pieces are crafted to stand the test of time with mortise and tenon joinery. We use 100% brass and/or marine grade stainless steel, guaranteeing no rust. As such, we are proud to offer at 5-year warranty against manufacturers defects on most of our products.



Longevity



Eco-friendly

Our manufacturing facility individually selects our logs from *Perum Perhutani* teak plantations. This means that trees are planted at a quicker rate than they are felled, ensuring low impact on the environment as well as maximizing local employment. You'll discover *Perum Perhutani* in an upcoming email.



Natural

Above all, what sets *A.R.B. Teak* apart is our commitment to 100% natural. Grade A teak wood possesses all the natural properties required to essentially take care of itself. This makes it a **no maintenance solution** we feel all customers deserve.

We know this to be true as we use teak day in day out ourselves at home and at

A.R.B. Systems has been around for 22 years and we stand behind every one of our products we've ever sold.

work. It lasts and lasts – all without oil and without special care products.



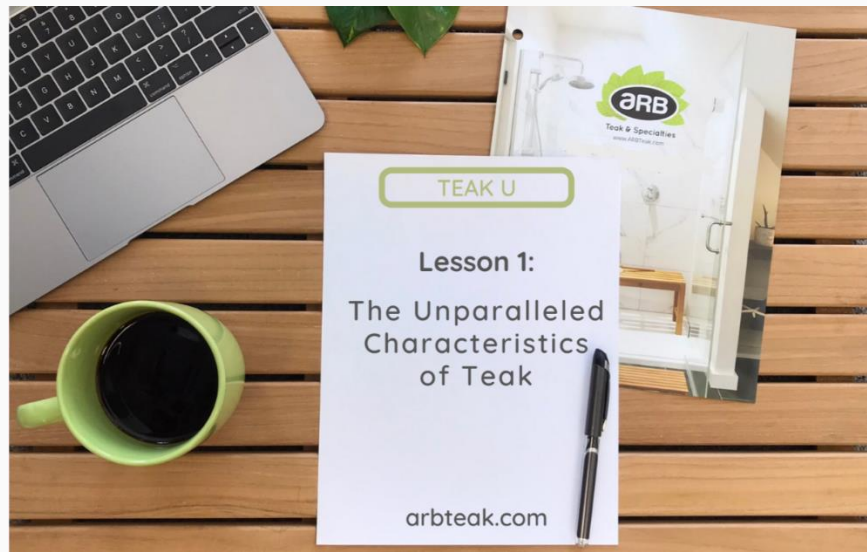
Here for you

We listen to your requirements, make recommendations — proposing custom solutions if required — and deliver to meet your expectations, every time.

Become the teak expert



We know you and your clients will be thrilled with *A.R.B. Teak's* elegant collections. Over the next few weeks you'll receive emails loaded with helpful information about teak. We truly believe the more you learn about teak, not only will you come to see it as the only solution for bath and spa furniture, but you'll also come to fall in love with it – like we do! Welcome to **TEAK U**.



It is common knowledge that teak wood sets the standard to which all other woods are compared. Why? Because of its oil!

Prized since the 7th century, the abundance of natural oil found in the tight grain of teak's heartwood quickly became the ideal building material for Dutch and English war ships during the 18th and 19th centuries.



Nowadays teak is renown for its ability to resist water, not only on the seas, but in our bathroom and back yards. Let's look at what makes grade A teak is so amazing.

Five characteristics of grade A teak



Hardwearing

Teak's natural oils make it mold and rot-resistant. There are currently centuries-old benches in English parks still being enjoyed today.



Class 1

Teak timber is at the top of the scale when it comes to highest natural durability.



Elegant

The rich oils give teak wood a unique, rich honey colour, replete with highlights and low lights that add luxury and natural warmth to any space.



Texture

Run your hand over a piece of natural teak furniture. The oily/sand texture is always warm to the touch and will never snag, warp or splinter.



Pest resistant

Grade A teak's high oil content makes it naturally resistant to invaders like fungi and insects.

**The value received is as important
as the amount spent**



It's true. Some clients price shop teak. But a teak expert knows this should never be the deciding factor when it comes to purchasing. Maintenance and replacement time and costs add up, making grade A teak the obvious winner over time. When it comes to quality and durability, **there's just no substitute for 100% natural teak.**



Always know your ABCs

Teak wood is available in 3 different quality grades: A, B and C. This is important to know as each grade plays a key role in the performance and durability of the furniture it is made into.

At first glance, you might think all teak looks the same. But remember, looks can be deceiving! Let's look at what makes them different.

But first, a quick lesson on trees.



How trees grow and why it's important to know

- Trees grow out from their center. This makes the heartwood (centre of the tree) the oldest, the strongest and the most oil rich.
- The outer layers are greenwood or sapwood. The sapwood is the part of the tree that transports the water from roots to leaves, making it the wettest part of the tree. This is crucial to know as it has not been around long enough to develop any oil.

Why does this matter? Because wet wood warps and contains none of the natural properties to protect itself from mold, mildew or insects.

So, just how can you tell this wood apart?

Grades of teak



Grade A

Hewn from the heartwood of a fully mature teak tree (40-80 years old), grade A is of the highest possible quality. It's antibacterial and virtually immune to rotting.

Look for:

- *Maximum oil content*
- *Uniform, golden honey colour*
- *Dense grain structure*
- *Lustrous surface that feels oily*
- *Knot-free*



Grade B

Between the heartwood and the sapwood lies grade B teak. Of lesser quality, grade B contains considerably less oil than grade A meaning it will require constant protective treatments.

Look for:

- *Lighter colour when compared to grade A*
- *Uneven grain*
- *Less shine*
- *Gray/black veins*
- *Some knots*



The separation between grade A and C is obvious when looking at a cross-section of a teak log (Tectona Grandis). However, it is important to note that grade C can be made to look like grade A with the use of chemicals. See "IMPORTANT" section below.



The part of the tree that was living when felled, grade C contains no similar characteristics to its' grade A counterpart. It is susceptible to weather and insects and despite constant maintenance, will eventually warp and break.

Look for:

- *Knots*
- *Only trace (if any) amounts of oil*
- *White wood*
- *Uneven colour/discolouration*
- *Splinters*



IMPORTANT

Grade B & C teak can be treated chemically to make it appear like grade A.

When buying grade A teak furniture, it is imperative you trust who you are buying from.

A.R.B. Teak has been working directly with our craftsmen nearly two decades to ensure top quality every time. This includes log selection, the science-based kiln drying process and quality-assurance from plantation to North American delivery.



Since heartwood is such a small proportion of a log (around 1/5), grades B and C are sometimes chemically treated to achieve the even color and smooth finish of grade A. These products are sold for less, competing with true grade A pieces, but they will not stand up to the tests of moisture and time.

We encourage everyone investing in teak to ask questions and dig deeper. An expert will know the answers.



Did you know? **200,000 non-fatal bathroom injuries are recorded in the US every year, with 81% being slip and falls?** Predominantly an issue facing the elderly, slips and falls can happen in the shower at all ages, including children.

Though teak shower benches and shower tiles look elegant and contribute to a Zen-like atmosphere, it's important to remember that they also help ensure safety in the bathroom.



Help prevent accidents

Whether a mobility issue, a health issue or as a preventative measure to slippery when wet shower bases, teak shower flooring/tiles are the way to go.

When coupled with an ADA compliant teak shower bench (such as *A.R.B. Teak's*), a valued bathroom aid for those weak from illness or fatigue, teak shower tiles are as essential to any shower project as the choice of shower head!



My mother has been using both a teak shower bench and shower mat for years due to advanced Alzheimer's. I can personally attest that this has greatly contributed to both her comfort and safety — as well as my own peace of mind.

Additionally, teak's natural oils keep the shower flooring and benches splinter free, most welcome for exposed skin in the shower!

Why leave it to chance? Improve accessibility and provide extra safety and support with grade A teak shower mats/floor and shower benches.



Adding a stand-alone shower to any bathroom project is exciting! And a shower bench is a great addition to any bathroom remodel. It adds an additional design element, functionality, and is all-round useful.

We've often found though, that designs seem to default to built-in tile or marble shower benches, without first comparing the merits of a stand alone. Why? Perhaps because the tile or marble required has already been decided upon. Or maybe it's because built-ins look impressive on the pages of home decorating magazines and website. Or maybe it's just forgetting they exist!



Whatever the reason, *A.R.B. Teak* believes that stand-alone, teak shower benches outperform built-ins on a every level, from budget, to function, to look. Let's see if you agree!

10 reasons stand-alone is better than built-in



1. Less expensive

In terms of both initial investment, including reinforcing the walls and building the seat structure, and time for cleaning and maintenance, stand-alone beats built-in hands down.



5. Cleaning

Eliminates extra grout and front surface areas that attract dirt and soap scum and makes cleaning more difficult.



2. Loss of real estate

Often clients feel buyer's remorse over the permanent loss of space in the shower due to shower benches that they rarely sit on. Don't chance it!



3. Cold and slippery

Let's face it. Sitting on cold marble is shocking at the best of times, never mind in the shower. Built-ins require heat up time before you can comfortably sit down. Tile and marble is also slippery when wet and soapy. Teak, on the other hand, is always warm to the touch and antislip – wet or dry.



4. Flexibility

A teak bench is movable, giving you more flexibility in terms or placement. Need to inch it closer or further from the water? No problem! You're never stuck in one spot.



6. Maintenance

All corners on a built-in shower bench can turn in to points of failure. Don't end up with major renovation headaches because your seat is leaking into the wall or floor, causing mold to grow.



7. Design

In most cases, a free-standing bench makes the shower look bigger – great for small spaces. Teak also looks great in any bathroom design.



8. Water stack

Does the water even reach the planned built-in? It would be nice to be able to sit AND have the water on you at the same time.



9. Beauty

Teak's warm honey colour is the perfect natural complement to the glass, tile, and chrome already in place. Add a teak shower floor and you've instantly transformed your bathroom to at-home spa!



10. Versatile

Need extra seating? A stand-alone shower bench works in a pinch!

Don't settle for the status quo!



Make your clients bathroom remodels stand out from the crowd with a teak shower bench (and a teak shower mat). They'll be eternally grateful every time they sit down on a nice, relaxing, and WARM teak shower bench!



For those looking for a space-saving option in the shower, a wall-folding shower bench might, at first glance, look like a good solution. Compact and bending out of the way, folding shower benches seem to marry both the need for sitting in the shower, as well as keeping the stall relatively clutter-free.

But wait a minute! Before considering and moving ahead with a wall-folding model, it's important to consider the impact on the client and bathroom project as a whole.



Safety

Shower seats are only as strong as the mounting hardware chosen and the wall on which they are mounted. The wall holding the bench must be reinforced, bringing the cost of the project hundreds, if not thousands more than a stand alone.

When the renovation is complete, it is vital to ensure the finish has been completely sealed. Otherwise water will leak into the wall through the hardware and cause a major mold problem in the near future.



True cost

A layer of complexity is added if clients are considering *adding* a folding shower bench to their existing shower.

The cost of hiring a carpenter, handyman or tradesman for framing, drilling and ceramic tile installation must be factored in, remembering it will be necessary to remove and replace a portion of the existing shower wall, including the tile.



Is the space saved worth it

Although it's true that folding benches can be installed to save space, is important to consider the space in the corner of a shower is actually 'dead space' — no one stands

there. Why not use it for a corner shower bench, instead of knocking your thighs on it when not in use.

Although not foldable, corner shower benches don't commit you to permanent holes and hardware in your shower tiles or surround, and is entirely removable if need be.



Final thoughts

Other factors to consider include:

- Does the water stack reach where the bench will be placed?
- How much time do you really want to spend cleaning around all those fixtures?
- How long will you be happy for?



After analyzing all the factors involved in folding shower benches it's easy to see that a stand-alone teak shower bench comes out ahead. It's a decision customer won't soon come to regret. And that's nice to know because happy customers are what it's all about!



Contrary to popular belief, you don't need a special 'teak cleaner' or 'teak oil' to take care of your teak – ever! That's because 'teak oil' is distinct from naturally occurring oil found in grade A teak.



Teak oil is actually a mixture of linseed or tung oils with some varnish and thinners added. It's called "teak" oil because it's intended for use on teak wood, not because it comes from teak trees.

It's marketed to unsuspecting furniture buyers who want to help 'protect' their teak and maintain its warm golden colour.

Teak is actually maintenance-free

That's right: teak wood does not need to be maintained. That's because grade A teak, when left 100% natural, doesn't need any protection from the weather, elements, pests, rot or decay.

It inherently has everything it needs to take care of itself.

There is, however, a right way to care for natural grade A teak.



How to care for natural, grade A teak



Shower benches and mats

FIRST TIME USE



Outdoor furniture

Teak furniture exposed to the sun will develop a silver patina. **IF** no oils or teak products have been applied, it will easily

Wash using a good quality plastic bristle brush, dish soap and water.

1. Use a constant flow of water
2. Go in the direction of the grain



Periodically remove accumulated residue using a plastic bristle brush and fresh water while showering and when cleaning the whole shower.

Don't forget to flip your shower benches and mats over to get at any residue that has accumulated underneath.

return to its elegant, honey hue with a good scrub.

1. Pre-wet your furniture and let sit for 5 minutes. This helps loosen up the dirt to be scrubbed away. Do this in the shade so the water doesn't quickly evaporate.
2. Wash your teak with a good bristle brush, dish soap and water to remove dirt accumulated from being outside.
3. *Do not use a pressure washer!* This will elevate the grain and make your furniture rough. You'll then have to sand it down to smooth it out.

Wash table tops a few times per summer, depending on use. Chairs once a year, usually in spring.



What happens when you add oil?

Adding any kind of oil or synthetic product on top of natural teak creates a barrier where mold and mildew thrive. Once you start oiling your teak, you'll never stop. You'll become trapped in a maintenance cycle you will quickly regret.

So now you know: Once a client opts for a well-made, grade A shower bench or mat, there's not much more they need to do but relax and enjoy their spa-like shower experience — and clean every once in a while.

And any suggestion that natural grade A teak requires regular maintenance beyond mild soap and a bristle brush is either lack of knowledge, hiding inferior quality wood, or will compromise the quality of the piece.

Have you heard or read something different on how to clean teak? Don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions you might have: 1.855.772.8325.





Naturally antibacterial and anti-slip, teak is a natural fit for – *and looks amazing* – in the bathroom and steam room when elegantly crafted into spa-inspired furniture.

However, unlike the commitment made with a built-in marble or tile shower bench, a teak bench is easy to remove when you don't need it.

Don't overlook the versatility of this little gem just because it has the word '*shower*' in its' name.



Teak shower benches also work great as:

1. **A hallway/entrance bench:** Great for sitting down to remove shoes and boots.
2. **A beautiful coffee table:** Lovely for your porch or veranda area. (You don't even need to bring it inside during winter).
3. **At the end of your bed:** A place for extra pillows/blankets.
4. **As a divider:** In an open floor plan, creating small zones can give a room a more orderly feeling and be a more efficient use of space. A backless bench can be used from any direction, allowing it to bridge different seating areas.
5. **In the guest bedroom:** The perfect spot for your visitors to place and open their luggage.
6. **Outdoors in winter:** Rest comfortably beside your home made ice rink or around the fire.



If you're looking for some inspiration, [click here to pop over to Houzz](#).
So many beautiful ideas!

Perfect combination

Styles and trends will inevitably change. Our needs evolve. That's why the versatility and classic design of *A.R.B. Teak* shower benches are the perfect combination.

Whether in the shower or out, a backless teak bench is a beautiful piece that enhances the look and functionality of any home.





Choice is everything

From a ladder made to hold towels, to a bench that fits in the shower, to chairs and tables that can be used in or out of doors, furniture made from natural grade A teak gracefully blends form and function.

Choosing the right pieces for your needs is an important task, as teak is an investment that lasts a lifetime. Whether spa teak or patio furniture, *A.R.B. Teak* aims to offer all the best pieces in one place.



Spateak by



Teak & Specialties

We know your clients will enjoy our premium spa teak collection. With 40+ shower bench models/sizes, shower bases, mats, shelves, accessories and more, you will find the design and dimensions you are looking for in the quality you've come to expect from *A.R.B. Teak*.



[Download A.R.B. Teak SpaTeak 2020 catalog](#)



Outdoor collection by



Don't stop at spa teak! Did you know *A.R.B. Teak* also offers an extensive, carefully crafted outdoor collection, including 100 choices of tables and 50 choices of chairs in addition to

deep seating, loungers, benches and accessories.

[Click here to view the entire collection on our website.](#)



Long valued for its' beautiful look and durability, teak has been the go-to hardwood for outdoor furniture for centuries. Natural grade A teak, being dense and containing a high amount of oil, repels not only water but also pests and insects, including termites. Vigorously washing your outdoor furniture twice a season with a good quality bristle brush is all that's required to make it last for decades.

**Did you know teak furniture
can spend the winter outside?**

Teak is a no-maintenance wood, well-known for its durability and resistance to moisture and decay. It is naturally antibacterial and can even weather harsh winters outdoors!





Why do you love teak? We've found that the majority of clients buy teak for two reasons: they love how it looks and because it lasts a lifetime.

The look is easy to understand: Teak adds warm, natural elegance to any room in the house.

Lasting a lifetime though... That takes a combination of several expertly executed processes to ensure that teak wood's natural properties are preserved when transformed into furniture.



1. Kiln drying

We now know grade A teak is strong, dense and high oil content. But did you know, in order to be transformed into durable furniture it first needs to be kiln dried? This process reduces the natural moisture in the tree at the time of felling from approximately 80% to a workable 12%.

Kiln drying is a science. Like baking a cake, not only is it vital to have the oven on at the right temperature, it's must stay in there for the right amount of time.



Sometimes, to speed up the process, some manufacturers cut the drying time short or skip it altogether, allowing it to 'dry' outdoors in Indonesia's humid climate. Doing this way saves money and also means there's a lot of moisture still left in the wood. Unfortunately the furniture made from this wood will rapidly warp and crack.

Kiln drying is absolutely vital for expertly crafting neat, close fitting mortise and tenon joints, which provide long term stability, regardless of environment.



2. Keep it natural

The second process, or rather 'non-process' is leaving the teak wood natural — meaning not treating with oils, varnishes or coatings. This is so important because once teak wood is treated its durability has been compromised.

Why? Because dust particles and bacteria can become trapped between the product and the wood, encouraging the growth of mold and mildew. Secondly, it traps customers in an endless cycle of sanding and treating, which nobody wants!



3. Quality Control

Our quality control procedures ensure all our products meet our highest standards. Here's an overview of how we do that:

1. Logs that are preselected by Perum Perhutani (forest department) are again carefully inspected.
2. Kiln drying is closely monitored: The start conditions of the wood are noted, the logs are checked throughout the process and the *final moisture* — not the time in the oven — defines when the process is stopped.
3. During production pieces are checked on an ongoing basis.
4. Our intensive sanding process (we spend 15x more time on sanding than the competition) is checked several times.
5. Finished products are tested for faults and function.

6. Final inspection before and during packaging.

Years to come

Beautiful, highly durable and designed for comfort, premium teak shower benches are a valuable investment and will bring clients bountiful returns for years to come. *A.R.B.*

Teak shower benches are always classically designed and made from 100% natural grade A teak – a good thing since they last for generations.





Thank you so much for attending **TEAK U**. You are now a teak expert!
You are fully prepared to guide customers in all aspects of their shower bench decision making.



It's about trust

Now more than ever, clients are researching online before buying in store. It's also a time where teak copycats and chemically treated teak are making their appearance in the marketplace, creating confusion for prospective buyers. Why is some teak so cheap and

some not?

You are now equipped to answer every and any question they might have relating to cost, quality and shower bench alternatives — you're now the expert!



From wood grades and craftsmanship, to versatility and maintenance, you now know why buying only 100% natural grade A teak is so important. **TEAK U** has provided you with the best insights and most pertinent facts relating to teak — bar none.

A teak shower bench and flooring are a vital detail that helps bring a bathroom to life, allowing for greater relaxation, comfort and safety.



In addition, *A.R.B. Teak's* beautifully designed collections are top sellers and customer preferred. They are the ultimate cash-and-carry accessory.

We believe it and stand behind it: Customers deserve only the best when it comes to teak in the shower. *And together that's what we'll deliver.*



[Download A.R.B. Teak SpaTeak 2020 catalog](#)

A.R.B Teak's Spa and Bathroom collections are online: www.arbteak.com

- Download our Spa and Bathroom 2020 catalog [here](#).
- Contact us today at 1.855.772.8325 with any questions. We remain at your disposal!
- Stay tuned for more information and upcoming promotions.