



Veneer Care and Maintenance

Veneer is a natural wood product, so it requires more attention than other surfaces. When veneer is properly cared for, it will last long and keep looking beautiful. To maintain the quality of your Herman Miller products, please follow the cleaning procedures outlined here.

Wood & Veneer

Herman Miller products finished with wood veneer or recut wood veneer, except the oiled Eames Lounge and Ottoman with Rosewood, Oiled Walnut, or Oiled Santos Palisander veneer unless specifically noted.

Routine Care

Normal Cleaning

Dust regularly with a slightly damp, soft, lint-free cloth.

Wipe dry with a dry, soft cloth in the direction of the wood grain.

Spills should be immediately wiped up with a damp cloth.

Once a month

Clean the surface with a soft cloth dampened with a quality cleaner formulated for wood furniture.

Wipe the surface in the direction of the wood grain to remove dirt and fingerprints.

Wipe dry with a clean, dry cloth.

Twice a year

Apply a good quality furniture polish with a soft cloth.

Do not use aerosol-powered cleaners or polishes.

Also, do not use polishes containing waxes or abrasives, or polishes that are oil based.

Stains

Herman Miller veneers meet strict testing standards for resistance to wear, light, stains, water, and pressure.

To reduce the risk of damage, take some precautions:

Use coasters for glasses and mugs.

If a glass top is added to the veneer surface, be sure it rests on felt pads.

Don't place a potted plant on a veneer surface unless it's in a water-tight container or in a drip tray.

Don't let vinyl binders stay on a surface for very long.

Use protective pads under equipment with "rubber" cushioning feet. Some chemical compounds used in the feet on office equipment, such as printers and monitor stands, may leave permanent stains or marks.

Minor repair of water rings, stains, and scratches

Rub the surface lightly in the direction of the wood grain using No. 000 steel wool.

Apply a scratch-removing polish with a color and value that simulate the veneer.

If the scratches are deep, consult a professional furniture refinisher.

Materials

Other Damage

Wood is susceptible to bruising and scratching from heavy office equipment, so we encourage a protective surface is placed underneath.

Objects should be lifted instead of dragged across a surface. Protective pads should be used under items with a rough bottom, like pottery.

Denting, caused by extreme pen pressure when writing, can also damage veneer. Use desk pads or some other protection where a lot of paperwork is done.

Sunlight can damage veneer as well, so veneer surfaces should not be in direct sunlight. To help a surface age evenly, users can periodically move items on their desks so that the entire surface is exposed to an even amount of light over time.

In addition to light, extremely high or low humidity is a damaging environmental factor. Herman Miller suggests maintaining a relative humidity of 35-65 percent.

Oiled Wood & Veneer

Herman Miller Eames lounge and ottoman with Rosewood, Oiled Walnut, or Oiled Santos Palisander veneer.

Routine Care

For normal cleaning, dust furniture with a slightly damp, soft, lint-free cloth.

Wipe dry with a dry, soft cloth in direction of the wood grain.

To maintain the oiled veneer, very lightly brush wood areas with a fine Scotchbrite pad moving in the direction of the grain to open the pores of the wood and remove fingerprints and dirt.

Never use wax-based products (Pledge, Endust), aerosol-powered cleaners, polishes, waxes, abrasive cleaners, or oily polishes.

Oiled Finish Maintenance

Only apply oil when the product looks dry.

To oil Eames product wood parts, prepare the product prior to applying the oil:

Rub the entire surface with No. 000 steel wool in the direction of the grain to remove small surface marks, light scratches, and any build-up from previous oiling.

Improve the appearance of deep scratches nicks by sanding the wood veneer lightly with no. 360 grit sandpaper in the direction of the grain.

Use caution on veneered surfaces to avoid sanding through the veneer.

Apply small amount of gunstock (boiled linseed or tung) oil to a clean, soft, cotton cloth.

Wipe small sections at a time in direction of grain using a circular motion until the entire veneer is coated.

Be sure to apply oil to all exposed edges of the veneer.

NOTE: Only apply oil on veneer surfaces.

Immediately wipe off any oil that makes contacts with leather, plastic, or metal parts.

Wipe off excess oil with a clean, soft, dry cotton cloth and smooth in the direction of the grain.

Within 10 minutes, rub again with a soft dry, clean cloth until the entire surface is dry. After about three hours, polish with a soft dry, clean cloth. Allow the oil to dry for 24 hours before sitting in it to avoid transfer to clothing.

As the oil builds over time, the period between applications will extend.

Only apply oil when the product looks dry.

NOTE: Properly dispose of rags used with oil as they can accidentally combust. Rinse oily rags with water and hang over a line to allow air to get to all fibers.

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