

## Teak maintenance

While SEMCO Teak Sealer is resistant to the weather and most stains, some oily or greasy food may stain the surface of the wood. The best method to clean these stains is dish soap or a spot clean with SEMCO Two Part Teak Cleaner for any stubborn spots followed by the application of sealer to the cleaned area.

**Maintenance Coat** - When you notice the teak is starting to lose its colour or water on the surface no longer beads up, it may be time to apply a maintenance coat of sealer. This involves cleaning the teak with soap and water and applying a single fresh coat of Sealer.

## FAQ's

**My teak is new, why do I need to clean it prior to sealing?** - Although the wood is new, it will still have teak oils, and perhaps mildew spores in the wood. The SEMCO Two-Part Cleaner will remove this oil and kill any mildew spores prior to sealing. This will prevent black spots in the future and properly prepare the wood for sealing.

**My teak is very grey and stained, should I pressure wash or sand the wood prior to sealing?** - SEMCO Two Part Teak Cleaner will remove teak oils, food stains, the residue of varnish, the grey and SEMCO Teak Sealer. Any solid surface coating like varnish must be removed before using Two Part Cleaner. Never use a brass brush, steel wool or a pressure washer to clean teak, these methods will scour the soft grain of the wood causing a rough and splintery surface and could produce rust spots in the wood. A Scotch Brite Pad plus SEMCO two-part cleaner is the best way to clean teak.

**Will the SEMCO Two-Part Cleaner remove the SEMCO Sealer?** - Yes, if the teak is already finished with SEMCO Teak Sealer the Two-Part Cleaner will remove the SEMCO sealer so you can start again.

**What shades does SEMCO sealer come in?** - SEMCO Teak Sealer is manufactured in several shades. The most popular choice for our furniture customers is **Honeytone**. Boat decks favour the **Natural**. **Clear Tone** contains no pigment and therefore is less resistant to the elements and requires more frequent re-coating. **Clear Coat** is used over the top of the sealers to further protect the surface and is mostly used on tables/benchtops.

[semcoteak.com.au](http://semcoteak.com.au)



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## New Teak

When teak is newly milled or has been sanded with a mechanical sander the heat from those processes will burnish or polish the natural oils in the wood. The dust created from sanding teak is very fine and oily, it will clog the pores of the wood. These two phenomena cause the "waxy" feeling of new wood. This burnished oil and dust must be removed prior to sealing. The sealer will not soak into the burnished areas and the dust will absorb the finish and eventually be washed away causing a blotchy appearance.

To prepare new wood for cleaning and sealing, one of two methods may be employed. Either the new teak can be allowed to weather for a few weeks, just until it begins to lose its color, or the process can be accelerated by washing the wood with a strong dishwashing detergent several times over several days. When the grain of the wood is open and the waxy feeling has gone, the wood is ready to be cleaned and sealed with SEMCO Teak cleaner and Sealer.

You can now follow the cleaning and sealing instructions contained in this leaflet.

## Cleaning teak with 2-part cleaner

To properly clean teak, use SEMCO Two Part Teak Cleaner. This product is easy to use and will produce dramatic results. To clean the teak with SEMCO simply remove the piece from any finished surface or remove any items that might be affected by the cleaning process. SEMCO teak cleaner will not hurt the lawn or fiberglass but it may damage painted surfaces, stain concrete or mark aluminium. Always wear rubber gloves and goggles when using this cleaner. Using a hose, wet the wood thoroughly and be sure to allow plenty of water to flow where the rinse water will run. Apply the Red Part 1 Cleaner onto a small area. It is best to work on a small area at a time, overlapping each area and working from top to bottom, not allowing the cleaner to dry on the wood. Scrub the Part 1 with a Scotch Brite pad or a soft bristle brush, the wood will turn a deep brown color. Leave the cleaner on for 5-10 minutes, don't let it dry, and then Rinse thoroughly. Then apply the Green Part 2 to the same area and scrub in the same fashion, the wood will then turn much lighter. Wait 5 minutes after the wood has finished changing colour and then rinse the area thoroughly with water. The teak should appear lighter and cleaner, if any stains remain repeat the process. The wood will lighten further as it dries.

## Sealing your Teak

To apply SEMCO Teak Sealer the wood must be completely dry. Shake the can or stir the contents to thoroughly mix the SEMCO. SEMCO Teak Sealer has a water-like consistency, appearing opaque in the can. Apply the SEMCO to the teak using a rag or foam brush applicator allowing the wood to absorb as much as it wants. There are no brush strokes or lap marks to be concerned with. When the first coat is complete, a second coat can be applied immediately. Always apply both coats in the same day. After the second coat, wait 10-15 minutes and then use a rag to wipe any excess from the wood. Two coats should be sufficient in most cases, as more coats will mask the grain of the wood. The teak will be dry to the touch in an hour and ready for service the next day. Cool, cloudy or damp weather will slow the drying time. A plastic spray bottle eases application to furniture.

When SEMCO Teak Sealer is applied to the teak and it has had a week or two to weather, the wood will appear as if it has "nothing" on it, yet the teak will not turn gray or allow the growth of mildew.

If water dashed on the surface beads up, then the SEMCO is still working and does not need re-coating. Avoid applying SEMCO too often as the finish will build up and mask the grain of the wood. A harsh environment or higher usage may shorten the intervals of maintenance required.