

## Care and Maintenance for Outdoor Metal Furniture

### *Determining Furniture Type*

*Aluminum furniture is lighter than furniture made from other materials, and it is not as susceptible to rust and mold as other types of outdoor furniture. Besides cast aluminum patio furniture, which is made by pouring molten aluminum into molds, there is tubular aluminum furniture.*

*Much of the tubular aluminum furniture is sprayed with a powder coated finish which is then heated to a high temperature for an excellent protective coating.*

*Aluminum does not rust, however it does oxidize. This type of corrosion actually protects the metal from the elements, however it is not nearly as brilliant as the piece looked originally. Bad oxidation may cause pitting which looks like small specks.*

*Steel furniture is susceptible to rust. Steel furniture is also powder coated the same as aluminum furniture is and should be maintained in the same manner. If your set is a steel tubular frame you may find that rust water will come from inside of the frames if they are not properly covered or stored when expecting rain/snow/ice. Covering or storing the frames will avoid rain water from allowing to build up inside of the steel tubular frames.*

### *Cleaning Aluminum/Steel Furniture*

*The primary care requirement for aluminum/steel patio furniture is frequent cleaning. Dirt and grime are the most common culprits if there is any kind of corrosion/rust on a piece of aluminum/steel patio furniture, so preventing a buildup of dirt is important.*

*Remove any decorative cushions or furniture accessories before cleaning your aluminum/aluminum furniture. Cushions require a separate cleaning process, and to avoid mildewed cushions, it's best to give them priority consideration at a separate time.*

*Use a garden hose with a spray or "rain" setting to remove the largest pieces of dirt and debris from the furniture. Avoid using a pressure washer or a strong setting on a garden hose nozzle. Too strong and focused a stream of water could cause damage to the furniture's finish.*

*After spraying the furniture off, make a bucket of soapy water with mild dish detergent and water. Using a soft cloth or a soft brush, go over each piece of furniture and remove any remaining sediment.*

*Alkaline cleaners will CAUSE oxidation/rust, so avoid chemicals like ammonia (found in Windex), and TSP. If a piece is lightly oxidized (from pollution) try an acidic solution (1:1) of white vinegar and water. This mixture will help deter oxidation from building up on the furniture. For daily protection, do not place the furniture where it will consistently endure rain or water damage, as this will erode the aluminum and destroy the paint.*

*Particularly watch the underside of the furniture and weld joints and be sure to clean them carefully.*

### *Rinse Thoroughly*

*You don't want to leave any dirt or cleanser residue on the furniture, so use a garden hose to rinse the furniture completely and allow to air dry or wipe down with a soft dry cloth.*

*As you rinse, you will also want to check nooks and crannies and weld joints again to be sure no residue or cleansers have collected there.*

## *Protection*

*In order to keep the shine or gloss that came from the factory, use a rub of a rust preventer such as WD40 or one-step car wax on the patio furniture. Do not use a wax that contains a compound or requires to be buffed on and off. These type of products will scratch the painted surface and may leave a behind a haze or buildup.*

*Use touch up paint to cover any scratches or scrapes. This may be available from a manufacturer, or use a clear coat spray from the store. Don't allow scratches to go untreated.*

*How Salt Water affects aluminum/steel outdoor furniture  
Fine outdoor furniture deserves exceptional care and maintenance.*

*Aluminum/steel are extremely easy to maintain. However, care must be taken to ensure that the powder coating of the paint does not peel. Salt water, or even salty air can affect the life of the powder coat. Therefore, if you live near the beach or coastal area or even have a salt water pool, it is essential that you clean your furniture regularly and use furniture covers to protect it from the elements. To all metal frames, apply a fine, clear automobile wax for maximum protection against harmful ultraviolet exposure and salt air.*

## *How to Protect your Metal Furniture Frames during the Winter*

*Regions that experience extreme winter conditions such as heavy and/or extended time frames where snow/ice is prominent will require extra care and protection for your outdoor metal furniture regardless of the frames material (steel, aluminum, wood, plastic...).*

*The best practice for winterizing your metal furniture is to first clean the set thoroughly and remove any dirt/debris or buildup on the frames. Next you will want to treat the frames with the one-step wax to give the frames the extra protection needed for the winter months. This is a very important step as this will protect your metal frames as it would your car's surface.*

*Now that you have cleaned and treated your frames with a protective wax, try to consolidate the pieces to minimize the space that will be required for storing everything. Stack chairs, and dismantle any components that might be susceptible to damage. If you are not able to completely store the set indoors (garage, weather proof shed...) select a storage location that is as sheltered from the elements as possible. Under a covered patio or area where snow/ice will not be allowed to sit on the frames for extended periods of time. If the set will not be stored indoors appropriate outdoor furniture covers must be used to protect the frames from freeze damage.*

*There are a number of commercial patio furniture covers available on the market for a variety of patio furniture types. These covers are usually made polyester or a heavy duty canvas that is sealed to keep out moisture and protect from damage. If the region you live in does experience harsh winters when choosing a cover, chose a cover that is water/weatherproof not just simply water/weather resistant. Water resistant materials will not protect frames from freeze damage. Standard Polyester covers or tarps are not appropriate protection from freeze damage.*

*What is this rust colored water coming from my steel frames?*

*The rust colored water you are seeing coming from inside of the frames is not considered corrosive rust. Please keep in mind that the frames are extruded steel. Although, the outside of the frames are a powder coated steel the inside of the tubed frames are raw steel. The rust water that is seen coming from the frames is due to condensation/rain water building up inside of the frames. If water is allowed to sit inside of the steel frames you will see some rust water come out when the frames are moved.*

*The best way to prevent this from occurring is to cover the patio set when not in use, especially when expecting rain, snow or ice. You can also take an extra step in treating the inside of the steel tube frames with a product such as WD40. You can simply spray the product inside of the bolt holes and drain holes on the frames and allow it to coat the*

*inside of the frames. You will want to treat the frames at least once a year with this product to prevent the rust water build up.*

*Outdoor patio furniture with steel frames will need to have extra care and maintenance from the consumer. Following the above instructions will help preserve the integrity and beauty of the customer's outdoor furniture for many years.*

*At this point unless there is specific corrosive rust found on the frames we cannot move forward with any type of resolution.*

*The rust water found on the concrete deck can easily be removed using a wire brush and water. I have attached a YouTube video below for your reference:*

<https://youtu.be/U2wzASVDYEM>

*For best protection, perform this maintenance at least twice a year.*

*Although, Pacific Casual cannot recommend products by brand, below are links to products found on the internet for use on outdoor patio furniture Please research these products to determine which product will be best for your patio furniture and the environment it is placed in:*

<https://www.turtlewax.com/shop/products/turtle-wax-quick-easy-wax-dry-spray-wax-26-fl-oz>

[http://www.amazon.com/Meguiars-M5032-Marine-Step-Cleaner/dp/B0000AY50X/ref=sr\\_1\\_cc\\_7?s=aps&ie=UTF8&qid=1422029465&sr=1-7-catcorr&keywords=step+in+to+liquid+car+wax#productDetails](http://www.amazon.com/Meguiars-M5032-Marine-Step-Cleaner/dp/B0000AY50X/ref=sr_1_cc_7?s=aps&ie=UTF8&qid=1422029465&sr=1-7-catcorr&keywords=step+in+to+liquid+car+wax#productDetails)

[http://www.autozone.com/fluids-and-chemicals/wash-cleaners-and-exterior-care-products/wax/turtle-wax-16-oz-1-step-color-back-liquid-wax/553990\\_0\\_0/](http://www.autozone.com/fluids-and-chemicals/wash-cleaners-and-exterior-care-products/wax/turtle-wax-16-oz-1-step-color-back-liquid-wax/553990_0_0/)

<http://www.homedepot.com/p/TURTLE-WAX-26-oz-1-Step-Wax-and-Dry-Cleaners-T9/205023586?N=5yc1vZdi9>

<http://www.westmarine.com/buy/harvey-westbury--gary-s-royal-satin-marine-rv-one-step-liquid-cleaner-wax-32-oz--13497680>

*It is also highly suggested to use outdoor furniture covers to protect your furniture from all outdoor elements. When choosing patio furniture covers you will want to consider the region in which you live and chose a cover that is appropriate for all weather conditions in your area. Outdoor tarps are not considered appropriate protection for outdoor furniture.*

*There are many retailers on the internet that retail furniture covers, shop and compare not only prices but the product as well. Consider if your area will require waterproof covers or if water resistant covers are sufficient. The proper covers will be one of your best defenses against rust/oxidation/freeze damage as well as normal everyday wear and tear.*

Please feel free to contact our dept if you do have any questions or concerns.

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