

# LAURA ASHLEY

## HOME

# Oakham Furniture

## information and care guide

please read and retain for future reference

Afin d'obtenir ce guide en français, merci de vous rendre à cette adresse:

Hier finden Sie den Ratgeber in deutscher Sprache:

[http://www.lauraashley.com/page/care\\_guides](http://www.lauraashley.com/page/care_guides)

### **OAKHAM FURNITURE**

Laura Ashley furniture is craftsman made with great care and attention to produce distinctive pieces that will bring pleasure for years to come. Each item of furniture is hand finished and uses traditional cabinet making techniques to ensure strength and longevity.

- Oakham is a warm classic furniture range suitable for all living interiors made from solid hardwoods, oak, oak veneers and modern materials.
- The range features turned oak handles and is spray painted in a satin finish with oak veneered tops.
- Profile detailing is added below the edge of the tops and each drawer contains a profile feature around the drawer fronts to create interest.
- Each piece is finished with a top coat of clear lacquer for a low maintenance finish.

With careful use these finely made pieces will give many years of satisfaction.

### **FEATURES OF NATURAL WOOD**

Wood is a beautiful natural material with unique properties; which should not be mistaken for defects.

#### **Wood Shading and Colour**

All timber surfaces will change colour and mellow over time. Variation in grain, shading and colour between different products and within the same product can occur. New furniture initially may vary in shade from existing pieces within the same range. Occasional slight odours from the finishing are not harmful, and will dissipate in time once the product is unwrapped, aired and in use.

#### **Knots and Splits**

Knots, burrs and inconsistent grains occur naturally as the tree grows and do not affect performance; proof of the highly individual nature of wood.

#### **Grain and Medullary Rays**

Each piece will have a slightly different grain pattern depending on which direction the wood is cut. Quarter sawn timbers enhance the natural characteristics of the grain to highlight medullary rays with interesting features such as growth rings, stripes and flecks which vary from section to section within the same piece.

#### **Joint Lines**

Hairline cracks in the grooves or slight movement in panels or joints are quite normal and fillers may be used to reduce the visibility of joint lines which may be visible through painted surfaces.

## EXPANSION AND TIMBER MOVEMENT

- All timber will expand and contract throughout the year and acclimatise to its surroundings. This may occasionally make moving parts a little stiffer to operate and hairline cracks in grooves appear as panels move, these are all properties of natural timber.
- To ease movement on drawers simply rub a little candle wax on the runners attached to the carcass of the furniture drawer.
- We do not recommend locating products in excessively high or low temperatures, or where the environment is often damp as this may cause product issues.

## LEVELLING, ASSEMBLY AND MOVING PRODUCTS

- Furniture must be positioned on a level surface to ensure that it does not rock and that any doors operate smoothly, the use of felt pads or wedges is recommended as even the most modern property can experience minor variation in surfaces or levels.
- To assist in squaring the doors products have either adjustable feet, hinges or wedges;
  - For adjustable feet or hinges: follow the instructions included with your furniture if adjustment is necessary.
  - For wedges: place under the feet to raise the corner as required, and snap off when the furniture has been in place for several days so they are no longer visible.
- If doors fail to operate smoothly, or the product is moved, levelling should be rechecked.
- Take care when moving products. We recommend they are lifted by two persons as dragging items across the floor will cause damage to the joints.
- Large items which are assembled on site from multiple sections should be disassembled before relocation to a new position.
- Self Assembly items should be assembled at the intended location and lifted carefully into position.
- Assembled products from time to time require all fixings and joints tightening to prevent loosening which can create squeaks and movement, full instructions are enclosed with your product.
- We recommend furniture over one metre high is secured to the wall to prevent tip over accidents. If customers wish to follow these recommendations, anti-topple straps are included with these products to be fitted using the customer's own wall fixings.

## SUNLIGHT AND HEAT

- Avoid exposing your furniture to excessive heat as this can cause cracking. A minimum 30cm clearance from heat sources is advised.
- Direct sunlight will cause the colour of real wood to change, even if painted or lacquered, especially if the furniture is placed near a window. Use in hot and sunny conservatories is not recommended.
- Leaving items such as ornaments in one place in sunlight on furniture may leave a mark when it is removed. Such marks should blend in with time.
- Never place hot dishes directly on to surfaces, use tablemats. Prolonged use of hot equipment e.g. a laptop, may cause scorching.
- Dark rubber feet used on some equipment may occasionally contain chemicals that can permanently mark on furniture surfaces so care should be taken.

## MAINTENANCE AND CARE INSTRUCTIONS

We recommend the purchase of a Guardsman Protection Plan\* at time of ordering (exclusions apply), to offer extra peace of mind in case of accidents. To prolong the life of your furniture we advise the following:

### Cleaning

- Regularly dust with a soft cloth and occasionally wipe with a soft cloth very lightly dampened with a mild detergent solution and dry with a lint-free cloth.
- Beeswax furniture polish from a reputable supplier may be used, the repeated use of a polish containing silicone is not recommended as it will lead to a build up of a silicone film altering the appearance.
- Clean glass or mirrored panels using a non solvent based glass cleaner and soft cloth, carefully avoiding contact with wooden or painted sections.
- Maintain any upholstered seats regularly with a soft brush and/or gently vacuuming; periodic cleaning is required to maintain appearance and prevent premature fading and wear.
- Follow cleaning instructions carefully, spills should be removed immediately by blotting with a dry white cloth. If the spillage causes staining or the piece requires routine cleaning, we recommend a specialist cleaner. A number of nationwide services are available including Safeclean\* on 0800 585 693.

### Care - To Avoid Unnecessary Damage

- Protect delicate flooring from potential marking by feet or legs using felt pads or castor cups.
- Do not drop furniture onto corners or feet, or lean backwards on two legs as this will weaken and damage frames, feet or legs.
- Prevent sharp objects such as toys, buckles and heels from coming into contact with your furniture, and avoid razor sharp edges on the butchers block.
- Avoid contact with any chemicals such as household or baby wipes, hair and skin preparations, fake tans, insect repellents and other cosmetics, or household cleaning materials, other than those recommended as these may affect the finish.
- If your furniture becomes soiled, scratched, chipped or suffers other damage we recommend professional help is sought to restore it.
- If you have relevant insurance you may wish to contact your provider for advice. Alternatively a number of nationwide services are available including Guardsman Home Services\* on 0845 6020789 or for cleaning Safeclean\* on 0800 585 693.

Following the guidelines above will ensure product performance is maintained. Laura Ashley is not responsible for defects caused by the misuse of your product.

www.lauraashley.com  
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\* Available UK and ROI only