



Living & Dining

did you know?

...there's more to choosing
living and dining furniture
than meets the eye!

**All you need to know about living
and dining furniture**

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When purchasing a dining table, bookcase, cupboard, wardrobe or any piece of cabinet furniture the selection appears endless. There are many different shapes, styles, designs, materials and price ranges to choose from. The temptation is to select what looks good, fits in with the home decor and meets your budget.

Although there are differences in materials and finishes, the most important factor to consider when choosing cabinet furniture is how you intend to use each item. Taking into account size, strength, durability, how regularly it's used and after care requirements.

Points to consider...

The following are a few suggestions that may help in selecting a suitable range of cabinet furniture that's of equal importance as the look and price when choosing your furniture:

General:

- Floors – are they even and level?
Many floors (particularly hard floors) may appear level but can run out of alignment. This may cause doors of units to be out of alignment and tables and chairs to rock on the floor.
- If purchasing wall units or wardrobes, will they be able to be pushed against the wall with skirting boards? Do they need fixing to the wall for extra stability? Are power sockets required or will existing ones be covered by the units?



Tables & Chairs:

- How many people do you want to seat?
- Do you need the table to extend for extra seating, if so will you need extra chairs?
- How often will you be using the table and what use will it receive?
- Are legs removable for ease of access?

Storage:

- Check internal measurements with what you want to store in the unit.



- Are the shelves and dividers adjustable and suitable for your needs?
- Is there sufficient space in the room for doors and drawers to be opened?

Bedroom Furniture

- Can you store all the clothes and shoes that you need?
- Can rails & shelves be easily adjusted?
- Is easy access, especially stairs, available for large items such as wardrobes that are delivered fully assembled?
- Some items of Cabinet furniture (particularly larger items such as wardrobes) are shipped to us, for ease of handling, requiring final assembly in your home. You will be advised of this in-store and when you place your order. We do operate an optional assembly and installation service (which is chargeable) on these items.

What's under the Surface?

Cabinet furniture can be made from a variety of materials - solid woods, natural or synthetic veneers and man-made boards, or a mixture of each. Also the way each item is finished together with method of construction will have a bearing on their suitability.

Solid Wood Cabinets

The colour, look, feel and appearance of solid wood can be hard to beat and as with all wholly natural products, solid wood could show all the knots, grain, colour variation and other features associated with this natural product. Solid woods can have a tendency (even if kiln dried) to move with temperature and humidity.



Over time colours can change as the wood tends to mellow - this is particularly important to remember if you are adding to a range over a period of time, ie., this can result in different shades of the same range of furniture - although they will tend to blend with time.

The unique nature of wood means that panels and joining pieces of furniture will not be an exact match in terms of grain and colour.

Veneered Cabinets

Veneers consist of thin layers of wood (or a synthetic veneer with the appearance of wood) applied either to timber or man-



made boards such as plywood, particleboard or medium density fibreboard. The advantage of this method is that they are less prone to movement than some solid wood and that with veneers more consistent colour and grain matching can be achieved.

Finishes:

These can vary from simple waxes and oiled finishes which require regular maintenance to retain their beauty to coloured lacquered finishes (built up with a number of applications) that are capable of withstanding different levels of use and will only require light dusting or wiping to keep clean.

Uniqueness of Timber

Many timbers, both solid and veneered will naturally vary in grain and colour from piece to piece. There will be variations between the floor model and any new piece supplied as well as variations if you

are adding to an existing collection. This gives the furniture its uniqueness and sets it apart from synthetic veneers and painted finishes.

Rustic ranges are often manufactured using reclaimed timbers or aged during the manufacturing process. According to the range this effect will be random and there will be pronounced grain variations, knots and mis-aligned joints. Each piece will be unique and variations between floor models and those supplied will be more pronounced.

Timber will tend to mellow with time and this is due to the intensity and amount of daylight that the item receives. If part of the furniture is unexposed to light (eg unused leaves of a table, or part is covered by a vase or lamp that is not moved) then you will over time get colour differences between the exposed and unexposed surfaces.



Maintenance:

Please take a moment to read the following guidelines as proper care and maintenance will help to prolong the life and appearance of your furniture.

You should always in the first instance follow the manufacturer's instructions with regard to care and maintenance.

The following guidelines are for general advice

- It is important to protect surfaces using either table mats or a table protector. This will help protect against the day-to-day wear and tear caused by hot objects, wet glasses that can cause staining and crockery and cutlery that can scratch the surface. This applies to all table and cabinet surfaces including glass and stone.
- It is important that if any spillages do occur, whether hot or cold, that they are wiped up immediately with a damp cloth. Even water can cause damage to the finish of a piece of cabinet furniture.
- Avoid the use of silicone based spray polishes as these are unnecessary on sealed finishes and will damage unsealed ones.
- Waxed or oiled finishes will require treating with the appropriate product to maintain their appearance (please read manufacturer's instructions). On occasions these ranges may have a 'dry' appearance upon delivery and may require an initial treatment according to manufacturer's instructions.
- When moving furniture protect the

surface from knocks and scratches.

Corners and edges are particularly prone to accidental damage and need covering during moving. Avoid dragging heavy items across the floor.

- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight and/or heat whether direct or indirect for long periods of time as this may result in fading or warping. Protect the furniture by drawing curtains and blinds whenever possible.
- If you have an extending table open it up and expose extensions to light, to minimise any variations in colour.
- Avoid rocking back on chairs as this will either break the legs or weaken the structure.
- If you have an accident with any glass items such as shelves or cupboard doors please contact us as it will be important that it is replaced to the approved safety standard.

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