

Wood Furniture: Buying Tips

Wood furniture adds elegance and warmth to the household. But purchasing wood furniture can be a little bit tricky. There is a possibility that the buyer may end up with a low-quality piece of wood furniture that does not enhance the interior beauty of the house. Therefore, before buying any piece of furniture, one needs to read up information about buying wood furniture. Equipped with valuable knowledge about wood furniture, a person is able to buy smartly.

Here are some buying tips that will be useful.

Which is more durable, hardwood or softwood? The terms “hardwood” and “softwood” does not indicate the strength of the wood furniture. They only specify the type of tree. Hardwood trees are broad-leaved trees that typically thrive in tropical climates. But several types of hardwoods can also grow in temperate regions. To survive during cold seasons, they lose their foliage. Some of these hardwoods are mahogany, walnut, poplar, cherry, oak, and maple. Softwood trees, on the other hand, stay green. Softwoods are classified as conifers and some examples are pine, cedar, redwood, and cypress.

Furniture made of hardwood is expected to be durable because they grow slowly. But furniture made of softwood can be made more durable than hardwood if they undergo chemical treatment. Therefore, if a buyer decides to get wood furniture made of softwood, the crucial question to ask is to whether the furniture has been treated. If the wood maker gives an affirmative, then it is ok to buy the softwood furniture.

Durability of the wood furniture also depends on maintenance. Hardwood is low maintenance and less prone to attacks from bugs. But this does not mean that hardwood furniture is completely invincible. Regular checks on the wood furniture are recommended to make sure that it is not being eaten away by insects. Softwood furniture, on the other hand, is susceptible to bugs. Pines are the favorites of beetles. To maintain the durability of softwood furniture, it must be annually treated with wood preservatives.

What do prices indicate?

Hardwood furniture is usually more expensive than softwood furniture. But a buyer might be looking at two pieces of furniture made up of the same type of wood but is wondering why there is a huge difference in the price. The difference of the price gives clues to how the furniture was constructed. The expensive wood furniture, generally referred to as “solid wood,” is constructed in such a way that all the exposed parts are made up of the same type of wood. For example, all the exposed surfaces of the “solid maple” wood furniture are made of maple. The parts that are hidden can be made of other wood, such as poplar.

The lower-priced maple wood furniture may have the majority of the exposed parts made of maple but some parts are made of other types of wood. Such types of wood furniture can be made to appear as if they are made of one type of wood because of the veneers and finishes that were applied to the surfaces.

How do I ensure that the wood furniture I'm buying will not fall apart?

The best way to ensure that the wood furniture is stable is to check its integrity. As a smart buyer, a person must be allowed to touch the furniture, open the doors, and slide out the drawers. The drawers and shelves should fit well and should slide smoothly. There should be no snags and squeaks because these indicate undue pressure which will weaken the wood furniture.

About the Author

<http://www.woodfurniture.net>

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