

Wood Furniture Buying Guide for the Home

These days, getting the right piece of furniture for the home can be a little more challenging than it used to. It gets aggravated by environmental protection laws that can give you a feeling of guilt getting that dinner table.

Planning is key. Do some window shopping first to check out what's available out there, either just in the mall near you or in a specialized home furnishing depot a little farther away. Shopping online is another way that can be more convenient and possibly cheaper as furniture makers sell direct without retailer and middle broker mark-ups. But whichever way you window shop, do a little homework after that. Here are some things to consider.

Identify your personal preferences and style

Do you like simple modern lines? Or ornate lines with a more colonial or baroque look? Or a mix? Will it be formal or casual? Remember that like buying a house, wood furniture that is well-crafted can be an investment.

Examine your home design preferences

It's great to start fresh and get all your furniture needs in one shopping act. You can then indulge to your heart's content with the designs you like to match the architectural interior of your home. But often, we have to adapt to the existing furniture styles we have and make sure any new addition blends well with the motif you started with

Identify your lifestyle situation and needs

This is basic and often merits primary consideration than the above. You don't buy a single bed when you need a queen size. Make sure what you buy fits or is properly proportioned inside your room or house. It doesn't make sense to have a large bed that won't allow you to move around the room.

Prioritize your furniture purchases

This is part of the planning process. Decide on your priority furniture options. The basic living room, dining, kitchen and bedroom furniture should come first. Decorative display and curio shelves and cabinets can come later.

Determine your furniture budget

The planning process ends with the budget. Bear in mind that good furniture can be had at any point in a wide price range, starting from used furniture to furniture on sale all the way to high-end furniture.

Check out the Wood

Here's the main caveat. Make sure you are not getting veneered wood, unless that's one option you are considering. Remember that real wood cost more than veneered furniture. Next you may want to check if the wood is recycled or fresh. But bear in mind that old or reclaimed wood can be just as good if well sourced and processed.

Lastly, know your wood. There are various wood species meant to last a lifetime because they are classified as hardwoods that many high end or well-crafted furniture use. And there are those that are prone to deformation because they are not as hard and can break or bend even with normal use. Some of the hardwood varieties have already been classified as endangered like mahogany and redwood.

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