

# Proper care and maintenance of furniture



# Furniture

- **Proper care and maintenance of your family heirlooms and works of art will ensure that they are available for future generations to enjoy**



# Furniture

- **Most furniture is composed of a variety of materials, including wood, metal, bone, plastic, shell, leather and fabric**
- **All these materials must be taken into account to care for and maintain furniture properly**



# Furniture

- **Light, particularly visible and ultraviolet light, is very damaging to organic materials such as wood**
- **To minimize effect, keep furniture out of direct sunlight and utilize blinds or curtains to block the light's intensity**



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- **Insects can damage wood; a common pest is the powderpost beetle**
- **Any materials resembling sawdust that appear on the floor underneath a piece of furniture may indicate an infestation; have furniture checked by a conservator or exterminator**



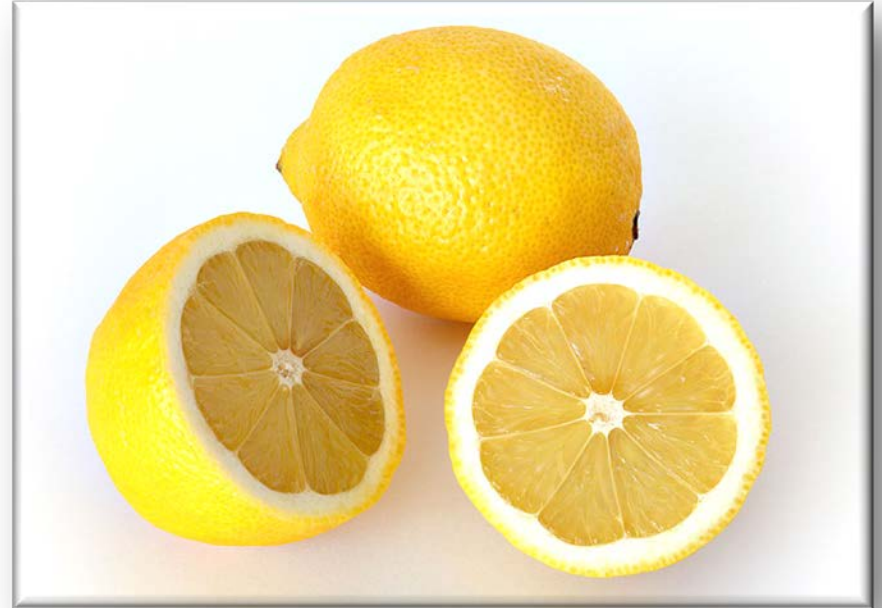
# Furniture

- Avoid using products that contain linseed or other drying oils, as repeated use will create a gummy, insoluble surface coating



# Furniture

- **Lemon oils can attract and entrap dirt; silicone polishes can leave a film that is difficult to remove**



# Furniture

- The best maintenance for clear-varnished furniture is a coating of good paste wax





# Furniture

- **A soft cotton cloth or artist's brush is best for dusting**
- **When dusting, be cautious in areas with loose elements such as veneers, moldings and metal mounts**



# Furniture

- **To polish brass hardware, use a polish that does not contain ammonia**
- **Be sure not to let polish come into contact with the wood**



# Furniture

- **Before moving furniture, examine it for loose or damaged joinery**
- **Remove such elements as shelves, doors and drawers**



# Furniture

- If doors can't be removed, secure them by locking or wrapping the case with soft cotton straps



See  
Deb's  
note



# Furniture

- **Tables should always be lifted by the apron or legs rather than by the top; chairs should be lifted by the seat rails**




See  
Deb's  
note;  
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# Furniture

- **Refinishing (stripping furniture down to the bare wood) is no longer standard practice**
- **An early finish is as important to historical furniture as legs or any other element**





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