



8th July 2024

Summer proof your garden furniture with these tips from British Garden Centres

As the sun shines brighter and days grow longer, our gardens become an extension of our living space, and with the Euros and Wimbledon in full swing, creating a comfortable and inviting outdoor haven is a must for the summer. But with the joys of summer come the challenges of protecting your precious furniture from the elements. Our team from our exclusive furniture brand, Fern Living have put together this guide to ensure your furniture thrives throughout the season. From cleaning routines to clever storage solutions, our tips will help you keep your patio furniture looking its best, season after season.

Material is key

Want to keep your furniture looking its best? Here are common materials that you will encounter in your local garden centre:

Wood: Teak and other hardwoods are naturally weather-resistant, but annual oil treatments maintain their lustre. Softer woods might need sealing or painting for added protection.

Metal: Wrought iron or aluminium furniture requires minimal maintenance, but prolonged moisture exposure can lead to rust. Regular cleaning and occasional touch-up paint are key.

Wicker/Rattan: Natural rattan requires careful handling and protection from direct sunlight and rain. Synthetic rattan is more resistant but can still fade.

Plastic: Lightweight and weatherproof, prolonged sun exposure can make plastic brittle.

Cleaning your furniture

The school summer holidays are around the corner and with your furniture getting more use in the sunny days ahead, now is the perfect time to give your furniture some TLC! Let's get things sparkling clean with some tips our different furniture materials:

General Cleaning: A mixture of warm water and mild dish soap works wonders for most furniture. For a gentle clean, use a soft brush or sponge to loosen dirt and grime. Give it a good rinse to remove soap, then let it air dry completely.



8th July 2024

Wood: For tougher stains, use a wood cleaner specifically designed for your furniture type. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for application and rinsing.

Metal: Remove rust stains with a solution of equal parts vinegar and water. Rinse thoroughly and dry completely.

Wicker/Rattan: For natural wicker, use a damp cloth with a mild soap solution. Avoid soaking the fibres. For synthetic rattan, use a garden hose for rinsing after cleaning with soapy water.

Invest in some furniture covers

The unpredictable UK weather of summer sun and unexpected showers can take a toll on your outdoor furniture. Investing in good quality covers from your local British Garden Centres store is your secret weapon! Breathable materials like canvas or polyester are best, allowing air to circulate and preventing mildew growth. Skip the plastic – it traps moisture and can actually damage your furniture.

Furniture covers will shield your furniture from the sun's harsh rays, preventing fading on fabrics and certain woods. Worried about surprise downpours or windy days, furniture covers will keep loose cushions secure and your furniture safe from being blown over.

Cushion care

Summer sun and unexpected showers can be tough on your outdoor furniture, especially the comfortable cushions! But with a little TLC, you can keep your favourite spot looking and feeling inviting all season long.

Choose weatherproof fabrics when buying furniture, and for existing pieces, prioritise regular cleaning. Brushing off dirt and debris is a quick way to maintain a fresh look. For removable cushion covers, follow the manufacturer's instructions for a deeper clean.

Sun protection is key! When not in use, bring cushions indoors or find them a shady spot to relax. Consider adding an awning or umbrella over your seating area for peak sun hours. We also recommend investing in a weatherproof storage box for off-season protection. This keeps your cushions clean, dry, and ensures they're ready for your next gathering under the summer sky.

Storing

As summer sets and autumnal nights return, it's time to give your outdoor furniture a break. But before you tuck it away for the season, make sure you remove dirt, debris, and pollen with a thorough clean. This prevents mildew



8th July 2024

growth and keeps your furniture looking fresh next year. Make sure everything is absolutely dry before storage – lingering moisture can lead to mould and mildew problems.

Once your furniture is clean and dry, find the perfect hideaway. Choose a cool, dry, and well-ventilated spot for storage. This will result in your outdoor furniture being ready to greet you next year, looking and feeling just as inviting as ever.

Darren Craven, Furniture Lead at British Garden Centres said: “With the summer season upon us, you will want to be soaking up the sun and enjoying the great outdoors. “Following these simple care tips from Fern Living will ensure your furniture thrives throughout the season, allowing you to create lasting memories with friends and family.”

WORD COUNT: 792

Notes to Editors: British Garden Centres (BGC) is the UK’s largest family-owned garden centre group with 62 centres around the country. The group is owned and led by The Stubbs family, who also own and operate Woodthorpe Leisure Park in Lincolnshire.

BGC was launched in 1987 with the opening of Woodthorpe Garden Centre funded by brothers Charles and Robert Stubbs. Since 2018 it has expanded rapidly with the acquisition of 50 garden centres allowing it to grow from its heartland to the business it is now with 62 garden centres spread from Carmarthen to Ramsgate, Wimborne to East Durham.

The group has a team of 2,700 colleagues working across the garden centres, restaurants, 2 growing nurseries, 4 distribution centres and Woodthorpe Leisure Park and Woody’s Restaurant & Bar.

Social Media

Facebook: British Garden Centres

Twitter: @BGCentres

Instagram: @BritishGardenCentres

Website: www.britishgardencentres.com

Cassie King

PR Officer

cking@britishgardencentres.com 07875 337290