

# CRAFTED FOR LIFE

Timber  
Characteristics  
Guide



At Loughlin Furniture our responsibly sourced Australian and American timbers are full of character.

We take great care in selecting each piece of timber, looking for consistent grain and tone to achieve the very best finish.

Every knot, grain, grub hole, gum vein, borers, fiddle back, wave, split or shake, end check and growth ring mark are all considered naturally occurring features of timber.

These features mean you get something that is truly unique and can't be replicated.

We love timber and we want to celebrate its natural features – show and celebrate its natural beauty.



**CONTACT**

Phone 02 4322 2186

[info@loughlinfurniture.com.au](mailto:info@loughlinfurniture.com.au)





## **TIMBER SELECTION**

At Loughlin Furniture we work with both select and feature grade, responsibly sourced Australian and American Timbers. Each piece being uniquely individual.

Our Master Craftsmen hand select the timber boards from our pallet racking for each commission, looking for even grain and tones to achieve continuity of characteristics in the final product.

Whilst great care is given to ensure both customer expectation and satisfaction are met, we emphasise that, like art, no two pieces of timber can ever be exactly the same.

## **OUR INDOOR FINISH**

Our signature timber finish is a 3-day process and has been perfected over years to maintain both the durability of the furniture piece and modern aesthetics both tactile and visually.

The finish is a Polyurethane Lacquer with a combination of hand mixed components to enhance and not alter the natural tone in the timber.

## **OUR OUTDOOR FINISH**

We offer a finish specific for outdoor use. While this finish treatment differs from our indoor finish it can still not be 100% guaranteed when exposed to the elements over long periods of time.

We recommend yearly reapplication of our Outdoor Finish which can be purchased in-store. Contact our team for more information.

## A GUIDE TO TIMBER CHARACTERISTICS

We work within a guide to ensure each finished piece of furniture is expertly colour and grain matched to the highest level. Because we work with real hardwood imperfections and markings in the timber are unavoidable. Natural occurring timber characteristics are not 'defective' pieces of timber.

You should be aware that your Loughlin Furniture piece may in fact have such characteristics in it. In this Guide our aim is to break down the terminology and offer details or reasons for such characteristics. After all, we believe this is the inherent beauty of the material we work with.

### Timber Knots

Knots in timber are a natural characteristic of the very material. All trees have branches and when sawn these areas will show as knots. Knots are the remnants of branches that have been captured by the growing trunk of the tree. Logs of timber are machined into long boards of timber at a timber mill. One natural knot in the tree (depending on the depth) may show on multiple boards as it is processed through the logging machine.

### Knot Hole

A knot hole is simply when the knot falls out of the piece of wood and leaves a hole behind it.

Common woodworking practices are to fill these holes with resin during manufacture so that the surface of the furniture is solid, level and usable without losing the beauty of the characteristic. Rest assured that this is expertly done to the highest standard.





### **Burn Marks, Grub Holes 'Borers' & Tree Growth rings**

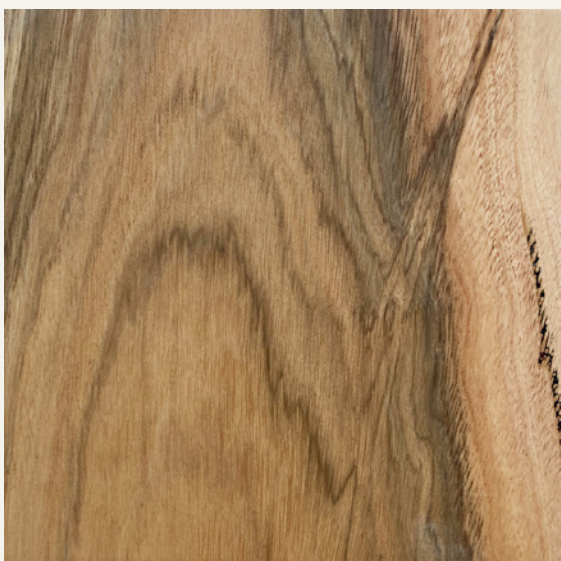
Environmental conditions like drought, fire, wet seasons as well as animals like adult beetles and larval grubs can all contribute to the individual tree's markings and in-turn the timber boards of your furniture piece.

Growth ring patterns, pin holes and injury scarring are all common markings in timber.



### **Watermarks 'waves' in timber**

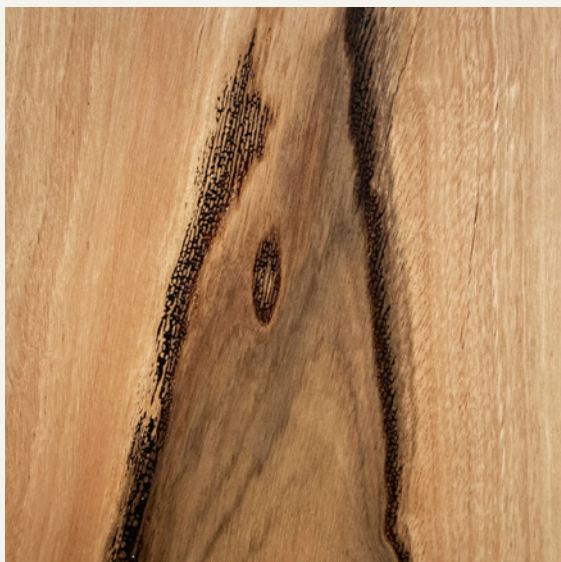
This is another common timber marking. Sometimes it is caused by the blades when cutting at the timber mill, other times it's a naturally occurring feature in the inner membrane of the log.



## Gum Veins

In most Eucalypt Trees like Blackbutt and Spottedgum, a gum is formed as the trees protective response to the environment. Fire, insect attack or mechanical damage in forestry can cause this to happen.

However it can also just be the natural state of the tree.



## Shakes, End Checks and Splits

Shakes are naturally occurring marks in standing trees caused by a bacterium in the tree roots.

Checks occur during the drying process. The Tree is under tension as the outer part or 'shell' of the timber dries but the core remains wet and swollen, this causes changes in the wood perpendicular.

Splits are caused by separation of the wood cells, also commonly during the drying process.

These are usually visible on the ends of finished timber products like dining tables. You should be assured these are not 'defective' or lower grade timber pieces but simply part of the material.





## Fiddleback

Fiddleback is a rare and naturally occurring feature in timber that is distinguished by small, tight wave marks that usually run against the grain.



## Natural Grain Variation

Real timber can be unpredictable in grain formation. Natural lines, features, variations can be both dulled or enhanced during the finishing process. This is out of our control as it is a naturally occurring feature within the material.



## MOVEMENT THROUGH THE SEASONS

Timber being a natural product it may change with the Seasons. You might notice slight variances in timber including movement and expanding & contracting depending on the Season.

At Loughlin Furniture we work 'with the grain' to ensure movement of the timber is minimal.

For longevity we recommend keeping your timber product out of direct sunlight and in a well ventilated space.

## RATTAN

We work with real rattan. Rattan is a natural product much like solid timber, and will patina (age) over time resulting in slight change of colour and appearance.

Natural rattan might also slightly warp depending on the Season and likewise will naturally tighten up in others.

In natural rattan there could be both light and dark features and marks on the weave which is common place and commercially acceptable. This is not considered faulty.

Depending on the product, the rattan panels need to be pinned into a timber frame. At Loughlin Furniture we follow best practice and wax any obvious pin holes on the inside of the panel to take the focus away from these. This is not considered faulty.





## CARE & MAINTENANCE

Loughlin Furniture recommends the following product care instructions to extend the life of your handcrafted timber products:

- Spills or moisture on timber products should be wiped off immediately
- No chemical cleaning product(s) should be used directly on timber products.
- Always use a soft damp cloth to clean down your timber products
- Products should not be installed or placed in direct sunlight
- Continuous moisture in the air may cause damage to the product. Appropriate room ventilation is recommended.
- Our timber products are finished in a polyurethane lacquer which can protect mildly against scratches however take care when placing ceramics or heavy items on the surface. We recommend always using coasters and placemats or a protective layer between any items you wish to place on top of the product.
- Do not leave any wet items on any timber products.
- Do not put hot or cold products on the surface of timber products.
- Outdoor products have an exterior finish specific to Loughlin Furniture. We recommend yearly reapplication of our Outdoor Finish to both freshen up and protect your product. This can be purchased in-store. Contact our team for more information.

Please contact our team if you have any other questions or concerns about caring for your Loughlin Furniture products.

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