Cellulose Lacquer Care

Routine Maintenance

Dust daily using a dry microfibre cloth. For spills, use a cloth that is only slightly damp followed immediately by a lint-free duster to prevent white water marks. Never use abrasive cleaners, bleach, or ammonia, as these chemicals dissolve the finish. Always use coasters and mats to protect against heat and moisture; specifically, use thick cork coasters and matching placemats to provide a substantial heat barrier.

Maintaining the Shine (Standard Cellulose Lacquer Only — Without Ceramic Coating)

This section applies only to standard bare cellulose lacquer finishes where the **Gtechniq C1 + EXOv5** ceramic coating upgrade has **not** been applied. If your piece has been coated with Gtechniq C1 + EXOv5, do not apply polishes or waxes—see the ceramic coating section below.



Apply **non-silicone** polishes like **Aristowax Non Silicone Wood Silk Furniture Polish**, and avoid oily products that attract dust or cause clouding. For best results, spray the polish sparingly onto a soft cloth rather than directly onto the tabletop, then wipe and buff thoroughly to ensure an even, streak-free finish. While high-quality paste wax offers excellent protection, it can be difficult to apply correctly and requires a patient, even hand.

Key Precautions (Standard Cellulose Lacquer)

- **Chemicals:** Keep solvents, perfumes, alcohol, and nail polish removers away from the surface, as they dissolve or cloud bare cellulose lacquer.

- **Environment:** Position furniture away from direct sunlight and radiators or heat sources to prevent the timber and finish from fading or drying out.

- **Materials:** Avoid placing plastic or rubber items (such as rubber feet on appliances, lamps, or coasters) directly on the lacquer, as plasticisers can soften and mark the finish.

- **Curing:** Please give bare cellulose lacquer at least two weeks to fully cure before placing heavy items on the table.

- **Heat:** Never place hot items directly onto bare cellulose lacquer, such as a freshly made cup of coffee or tea (typically around 80°C to 90°C) or a hot dinner plate or serving dish (often 65°C to 85°C+), as cellulose lacquer softens around 60°C to 70°C and can develop permanent white heat rings or blistering. Always use thick cork coasters and placemats.

Maintenance with Ceramic Coating Upgrade (Gtechniq C1 + EXOv5)

If the piece has been upgraded with the Gtechniq C1 Crystal Lacquer + EXOv5 ceramic (silica) topcoat over cured Morrells 280 lacquer, the curing and care routine differs from standard cellulose lacquer:

- **Initial 14-Day Lacquer Cure (Before Ceramic Coating):** Light, dry use only (dry books or papers); strictly no furniture wax, silicone spray, aerosol polish (including Wood Silk), or liquid cleaners; wipe spills immediately with a slightly damp cloth and dry straight away; always use cork or thick woven mats under warm plates and avoid hot mugs directly on the timber.

- **First 12 to 24 Hours After Ceramic Coating:** Keep the tabletop completely bare, uncovered, and untouched (no placemats, runners, or ornaments).

- **Days 1 to 7 After Ceramic Coating:** Light, dry use only—always use dry placemats under dinner plates and avoid hot mugs, wet glasses, alcohol, or liquid cleaners.

- **After 7 Days (up to 10 days in cooler rooms):** Full normal everyday use. Once fully cured, the ceramic-coated surface resists high heat (up to 200°C), water ring marks, and alcohol spills.

- **Ongoing Maintenance:** Clean simply using a microfibre cloth dampened with clean water. Do not apply abrasive creams, furniture waxes, silicone sprays, or polishes—they are unnecessary and will sit on top of the ceramic layer.

Key Precautions (Gtechniq C1 + EXOv5 Silica Upgrade)

- **Chemicals & Polishes:** Once fully cured (after 7 days), the silica barrier resists alcohol and everyday household spills, but still avoid harsh solvents, bleach, ammonia, and abrasive creams—and never apply furniture waxes, silicone sprays, or Wood Silk polish, as they will sit smearily on top of the hydrophobic silica film.

- **Environment:** Position furniture away from direct sunlight and radiators or heat sources to prevent the underlying timber from fading, drying out, or moving.

- **Materials:** Avoid leaving soft rubber or PVC feet resting on the surface for long periods—while the silica barrier protects the lacquer from light contact, heavy items with rubber feet can still indent the underlying timber or lacquer if left in one spot.

- **Curing:** Follow the staged cure strictly—light, dry use only during the 14-day pre-coating lacquer cure; completely bare and untouched for 12 to 24 hours after the silica coating; light, dry use for days 1 to 7; and full normal use after 7 days (10 days in cooler rooms).

- **Heat:** Once cured after 7 days, the silica layer protects the finish against hot mugs, warm plates, and thermal shock up to 200°C without developing white heat rings. However, always use thick cork mats or trivets under scorching ovenware or casserole dishes straight from the hob or oven, as prolonged extreme heat can still conduct through to the underlying timber and lacquer.

Restoring the Surface (professional only)

Light scratches may be masked with a lacquer repair stick or fine polishing compound. For high-gloss finishes, apply **Farécla G3** or **3M Ultra Finish** in straight lines using a damp cotton cloth. Treat deep scratches with **0000 grade wire wool** or consult a professional.

Note for Gtechniq C1 + EXOv5 Silica-Coated Finishes: Because the cured silica layer repels fresh lacquer and polishes, local repairs require professionally feather-sanding through the silica skin before touching in or spot-spraying the underlying lacquer, followed by re-applying the C1 + EXOv5 topcoat once the repaired lacquer has cured for 14 days.

Please contact www.roberts-restoration.co.uk