Suitable Placemats & Coasters for Table Tops

Care Guide: Protecting newly finished and restored table surfaces

Protecting a freshly polished or restored table top is essential while the finish fully cures. Using the correct mats prevents micro-scratching, heat rings, and moisture traps. Below is a guide to suitable natural materials, ordered by recommendation:

1. Water Hyacinth Mats

Recommendation: Highly Recommended



Water hyacinth mats are extremely soft and pliable. The natural softness of woven water hyacinth ensures it will not micro-scratch fresh lacquer, French polish, or oil finishes under plate weight.

Their thick weave provides excellent heat insulation and allows airflow underneath, preventing trapped condensation.

2. Cork Mats & Coasters

Recommendation: Highly Recommended



Cork provides a nice, completely flat surface for glassware and crockery. Naturally soft and flexible, cork gives a stable base without sharp or abrasive points pressing into surface.

It is highly impermeable to liquids and provides outstanding thermal insulation against hot plates and mugs.

3. Woven Rush Mats

Recommendation: Acceptable (Use with Care)



Woven rush mats offer good traditional protection, although the natural fibers are noticeably stiffer than water hyacinth or cork.

While acceptable for cured finishes, ensure the weave is smooth underneath and avoid sliding stiff rush mats across the table top to prevent superficial scuffing.

General Care Tip for Fresh Finishes:

Always ensure mats are clean and free of trapped grit underneath. Avoid rubber-backed or synthetic PVC mats, as plasticisers in synthetic materials can react chemically with new finishes.

Important Note:

These recommendations are provided to help preserve your furniture's finish. Roberts Restoration cannot accept responsibility for damage caused by heat, moisture, or micro-scratching if unsuitable mats or alternative protective coverings are used.