



Product Care and Maintenance Manual

IMPROVE YOUR HOME & IMPROVE OUR WORLD

ZANAT

Introduction: Material Responsibility

Zanat products are created from solid wood and other natural materials. In making each Zanat product we combine traditional craftsmanship and finishing techniques, including UNESCO world heritage woodcarving, with contemporary production technology. Each product is the result of collaboration between some of the world's leading designers and Zanat's engineering and product development team. The materials are chosen not for perfect uniformity, but based on sustainability, their natural beauty and strength, ability to be repaired, and their graceful aging over time. This guide provides instructions for the proper care of Zanat products, explains how natural materials behave, and clarifies the difference between normal natural characteristics and actual defects.

By following these care guidelines, you will ensure that your product:

- Has a long lifespan and hopefully becomes your family heirloom
- Maintains stable structure
- Ages beautifully and in a controlled manner
- Retains its material integrity

Failing to adhere to the basic care instructions may cause damage that is not covered by warranty.

Solid Wood as a Living Material

Nature of Solid Wood

Solid wood is a hygroscopic material, meaning it continually absorbs and releases moisture depending on the surrounding humidity and temperature. As a result, the wood will naturally expand and contract with the seasons, primarily across the grain. This is a normal and predictable behavior, and Zanat's designs account for this in their construction.

Variability Is Inherent

No two trees are exactly the same. Even pieces cut from the same log will display differences in grain structure, color tone, density, and mineral content. Achieving a uniform appearance is not the goal in solid wood craftsmanship; instead, variation is a defining and valued quality. When it comes to wood, perfection is not defined by perfect uniformity.

Climate Sensitivity

Wood responds most noticeably to low indoor humidity (below 35%), excessive dryness from heating systems, and rapid changes in humidity. To ensure the long-term performance of your furniture, it is essential to keep indoor climate conditions stable. Indoor humidity that is healthy for wood is also healthy for humans. Low or excessive indoor humidity is equally detrimental to human health as it is to the health of wooden products.¹ Using humidity monitors to check humidity and turning humidifiers on during cold winter months to keep humidity within the healthy range of 40-60% can help keep the furniture and those who use it healthy.

¹Low indoor humidity dries out skin, eyes, and respiratory passages, causing irritation, itchiness, and a higher risk of infections (colds, flu) because viruses survive longer in dry air and our defenses are weakened. It can worsen conditions like eczema, asthma, and sinusitis, leading to coughing, sore throats, and even nosebleeds, while also increasing static and potentially dehydrating the body. Maintaining humidity between 40-60% with a humidifier is key to comfort and health.

Acceptable Natural Characteristics vs. Defects

Acceptable Natural Characteristics (Not Defects)

The following features are normal, expected, and acceptable in Zanat products:

- Variation in grain patterns and direction
- Natural differences in color between parts
- Mineral streaks and growth marks
- Small knots or professionally filled knots
- Hairline surface checks that do not affect stability
- Hand-carving marks and tool traces
- Slight surface unevenness due to the solid wood structure
- Patina, wear, and softening of surfaces over time

These characteristics do not affect the function, durability, or structural integrity of the product.

What Is Considered a Defect

The following issues may be considered defects, subject to inspection:

- Structural cracking that affects stability
- Excessive warping beyond design tolerance
- Joint failure or loosening during normal use
- Finish failure not caused by misuse or environmental factors
- Manufacturing errors that affect product function

Damage caused by improper use, unfavorable climate conditions, or insufficient care is not considered a defect.

Environmental Conditions & Placement

Recommended Indoor Conditions

For optimal performance, maintain relative humidity between 40% and 60% and a stable temperature between 18–24°C (64–75°F). Gradual seasonal changes are preferred. Use humidifiers in winter if indoor air is too dry.

Important placement Guidelines

To protect your furniture, avoid placing it in direct sunlight, near radiators, fireplaces, or underfloor heating outlets, and directly against exterior walls without insulation. Always use felt pads under legs, coasters under objects, and protective mats on writing surfaces.

Lacquered Wood Surfaces

The lacquer finish forms a protective surface layer that resists stains, limits moisture penetration (but not entirely), and stabilizes the appearance of the wood. However, it does not eliminate the natural movement of wood.

Routine Care

- Dust with a soft, dry cloth
- Clean with a damp cloth and mild soap if needed
- Dry the surface immediately after cleaning

What to Avoid

- Abrasive sponges
- Solvents, alcohol, or acetone
- Silicone-based polishes

Repairs

- Minor surface marks can be polished by a professional
- Deep damage requires authorized refinishing

Home repairs are not recommended for lacquered wood surfaces.

Oiled Wood Surfaces

Purpose of Oil Finish

The oil finish penetrates the wood fibers, protecting the material while allowing it to breathe. Unlike lacquer, oil does not create a closed film. This quality makes oiled surfaces repairable, renewable, and responsive to aging. Surface changes are normal and can be managed as needed.

Routine Care

- Dust the surface with a dry or slightly damp microfiber cloth
- Clean only with pH-neutral wood soap
- Wipe in the direction of the wood grain

Never allow water to sit on the surface!

Periodic Maintenance (once per year or as needed)

Ideally, oiled products should be reoiled every one or two years for better protection and longevity. This is not necessary if the products are kept in good condition and have no visible traces of use.

- Clean the surface thoroughly
- Apply a thin, even layer of the recommended furniture oil
- Let the oil absorb for 15–30 minutes
- Completely remove any excess oil
- Allow the surface to cure for 24 hours

Local Repairs

- For light scratches: sand lightly with 240–320 grit sandpaper, then re-oil
- For small stains: sand and oil the affected area locally

Oiled surfaces are intentionally designed to allow for localized repairs.

Repairing Small Dents Using Steam (Iron Method)

Shallow dents in solid wood surfaces, where the wood fibers are compressed but not broken, can often be treated using a controlled steam method. This technique works by re-expanding the compressed fibers and is specifically suitable for solid wood surfaces only.

Procedure

1. Begin by ensuring that the surface is clean and free of any wax, oil residue, or dirt.
2. Lightly moisten a clean cotton cloth with water and place it directly over the dent.
3. Using a household iron set to medium heat (with the steam function off), apply the iron to the cloth for short intervals of 2–5 seconds.
4. After each application, lift the cloth and inspect the surface. Repeat the process carefully if necessary, allowing the surface to cool between applications.
5. Once the area is dry, lightly sand if needed and restore the finish (such as re-oiling for oiled surfaces).

Limitations

- This method is not effective if the wood fibers are torn or sharply broken.
- Excessive heat or moisture may cause damage to surface finishes.
- It is not recommended for lacquered surfaces unless performed by a professional.
- Always test this method in an inconspicuous area first to avoid visible damage.

Leather Upholstery

Nature of Natural Leather

Zanat uses natural, minimally treated leather. These leathers naturally develop a patina, soften over time, and darken in areas of frequent contact. Uniform aging is neither expected nor desired.

Routine Care

- Dust weekly with a soft cloth
- Vacuum gently using an upholstery attachment
- Wipe with a lightly damp cloth as needed

Conditioning

- Apply a neutral leather conditioner twice per year
- Apply sparingly and distribute evenly

Natural Fabric Upholstery

Materials

Zanat uses natural fabrics by highly reputable suppliers mostly made of wool, linen, and cotton blends. Each type of fabric reacts differently to exposure to light and wear over time.

Routine Care

- Vacuum regularly using low suction
- Rotate cushions to ensure even wear
- Air out periodically

Spot Cleaning

- Blot spills immediately; do not rub
- Use lukewarm water and mild soap
- Test cleaning in an inconspicuous area first
- Machine washing is not recommended unless specifically stated otherwise.

Glass & Secondary Materials

Glass Care

- Clean with standard glass cleaner or a water/vinegar solution.
- Use a lint-free cloth.
- Dry the surface immediately.
- Avoid sharp impacts, especially on the edges of glass components.

Metal Elements

- Minor patina or changes on the metal surface may develop over time and are considered acceptable.
- Clean metal elements only with mild cleaning agents.

Repairability & Long-Term Care

- Zanat products are designed to be repairable, refinishable, and serviceable for decades.
- Regular re-oiling, re-upholstery, and refinishing can greatly extend the life of your furniture and are preferable to replacement.
- For structural repairs or refinishing, contact Zanat or an authorized service partner.

Warranty Context & Use Limitations

- This guide is intended to explain proper care and the behavior of natural materials but does not replace the formal warranty terms.
- The warranty does not cover damage resulting from improper climate conditions, misuse, neglect, or from normal aging, patina, or wear.
- Proper care is the responsibility of the owner.

Closing Note

A Zanat object is not a static product. It is a crafted material system designed to live, change, and endure. With correct care, your Zanat piece can serve not only one owner, but it will become a family treasure to be passed down to the next generation. Zanat is regularly asked to repair pieces of furniture made by the grandfather of the current company owners more than 100 years ago. Those pieces are heirloom objects, which have sometimes been passed down through three generations in the same family. We hope that the pieces you buy today from Zanat will still be treasured and cherished by your descendants in the next century.