

## PROTECTIVE COVERS CARE & MAINTENANCE



When not in use, we recommend that furniture is covered using the specially designed protective covers available for many of our products. This will help keep dirt and stains from occurring due to environmental pollution, falling leaves, passing birds, splashes etc.

With typical attention to detail, each cover is tailored to the unique dimensions of our product, ensuring a perfect fit. As well as covers for individual items, we also offer covers for all our stacking chairs, meaning that a single cover can be used for a stack of four chairs. For several of our modular furniture collections, adjacent covers are designed to zip and Velcro together so the entire set can be covered without the need to separate each item. All covers feature either a strap-and-clip connector or ties to ensure security against wind.

Gloster protective covers are made from Weathermax, a heavy duty 100% solution dyed polyester material. Weathermax is a performance cover material combining UV resistance, water resistance, breathability and durability. The ability of the fabric to breathe is essential in reducing dampness, heat build-up and condensation. This in turn reduces the chances of problems such as mould or mildew becoming present on the furniture underneath.

Due to the breathable construction of the fabric, it is possible that a small amount of moisture can penetrate the cover, especially on horizontal surfaces if the water is allowed to collect. It is important to ensure that sitting water is removed to prevent excessive moisture being drawn through the fabric.

To ensure optimal performance, in particular when upholstered furniture and/or cushions are being covered for an extended period (i.e. over the winter), all items of furniture should be completely dry before being covered. For cushions we recommend fully drying the cushions indoors before fitting covers. This is to ensure that all moisture is removed from the cushion interior.

We also recommend that our protective covers are removed regularly, and that the furniture is cleaned and maintained even when not in use. In heavy rain, splashes may enter underneath the covers. Any residual dirt should be removed, especially from upholstery.

All our furniture is designed to be left exposed to the elements, and natural materials such as teak are expected to change in character as the weathering process continues. Protective covers will help to slow this process and keep the worst of what nature decides to throw at your furniture at bay, whatever the season.



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## General Care

Brush off dirt immediately. Allowing it to remain on the cover can result in it getting more deeply embedded into the fabric, as dirt is an organic matter and can provide a habitat for mould and mildew spores to grow. Periodically hose down your cover, as rain water can provide rinsing action but often can be a carrier for organic matter as well. Weathermax is treated with a durable water repellent when it is manufactured. This finish is designed to last for several years but the life span of the repellent can be diminished from several factors such as abrasion, cleaning, chemicals and other atmospheric pollutants. Periodically check to see how well water beads on the fabric. If water drops do not bead but instead flatten and possibly soak into the fabric, it is time to retreat the fabric.

## Cleaning

Weathermax Fabrics may be spot washed by using a soapy solution of a mild detergent and lukewarm water. Rinse thoroughly with clean water to remove soap and allow to air dry. For mildew stains, prepare a solution of 236ml (1 cup) of bleach plus 118ml (½ cup) of mild detergent per gallon of water. Spray on the entire area and allow soaking. Rinse with clean water and allow to air dry. Be sure to fully rinse the bleach off the fabric. Protect non-Weathermax areas such as sewing thread and reinforcements so the bleach does not come in contact as it may be deteriorate non-Weathermax components. After cleaning, check the water repellence of the fabric to see if retreatment might be required.

## Removing Oil

Oil can be effectively removed with an aerosol spot remover.

## Retreating Weathermax

There are several well designed and effective aftermarket water repellent treatments available below that work well with Weathermax. Follow the directions of the manufacturer when applying.

Starbrite Waterproofing with PTEF

Formula 303 Fabric Guard

Rust-Oleum NeverWet Outdoor Fabric Spray

Kiwi Heavy Duty Water Repellent