

This guide covers the care of your teak sofa set. The frame is crafted from solid A-grade teak, and the cushions (squabs) are upholstered in Sunbrella performance fabric, prized for its fade, stain and water resistance outdoors. A little regular care for both the timber and the fabric keeps the whole set looking its best for years of outdoor living.

What your sofa set is made of

Frame	Solid A-grade teak
Cushions / squabs	Sunbrella solution-dyed acrylic outdoor performance fabric

1 Caring for Your Sunbrella Fabric Squabs

Sunbrella fabric is woven from solution-dyed acrylic fibres, which means the colour runs all the way through each fibre rather than sitting on the surface — so it resists fading, staining and moisture far better than ordinary outdoor fabric. It doesn't promote mildew growth itself, but dirt left sitting on the surface can, so regular light cleaning is the key to keeping squabs looking fresh.

1 Brush off regularly

Brush off loose dirt, dust and debris with a soft brush before it becomes embedded in the weave. Hosing squabs down with clean water every few weeks also helps.

2 Light clean as needed

Mix a solution of roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of mild natural soap (not detergent) per litre of lukewarm water. Apply with a soft-bristled brush or sponge, let it soak into the fabric for a few minutes, then rinse thoroughly until all soap residue is gone.

3 Air dry only

Always air dry Sunbrella fabric fully in the shade or open air. Never tumble dry, iron or apply direct heat — heat can damage the fibres and affect the fabric's finish.

4 Stubborn stains or mildew

For tougher marks, a diluted bleach solution (around $\frac{1}{2}$ cup bleach and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup mild soap per 4 litres of water) can be used — Sunbrella's solution-dyed fibres tolerate diluted bleach well. Apply, leave to soak up to 20 minutes, then rinse thoroughly and air dry. Keep bleach solution away from the teak frame and surrounding plants or fabrics it may discolour.

Avoid: household detergents, dry cleaning, machine drying, ironing or any direct heat on Sunbrella fabric. After a thorough clean, the fabric's water-repellent finish is reduced, so consider re-treating with a Sunbrella-approved fabric guard product to restore water and stain resistance.

2 Understanding & Caring for Your Teak Frame

A-grade teak is naturally rich in protective oils, making it one of the most durable timbers for outdoor furniture. Left untreated and exposed to the weather, teak will gradually change from its original golden-honey colour to a silver-grey patina — a natural process many people love for its relaxed, weathered look. If you'd prefer to keep that fresh, golden-honey colour, regular treatment with the right teak care products will slow this process and keep the timber protected.

Option A — Natural silver-grey patina	Option B — Maintain the golden-honey colour
Do nothing. Occasionally clean with the Teak & Hardwood Cleaner to remove dirt, mould and staining, and let the teak weather naturally to an even, silver-grey finish.	Clean with the Teak & Hardwood Cleaner, then apply Teak Shield or the Honey Brown Teak Protector to lock in the colour and protect against moisture and staining.

Either way, a light general clean with warm soapy water and a soft cloth or brush between treatments helps prevent dirt and organic buildup — just be sure to always brush or wipe in the direction of the wood grain, and keep cleaning products off the Sunbrella squabs.

3 Recommended Teak Care Products — Golden Care

We recommend and stock the Golden Care teak care range — purpose-made products developed specifically to clean, protect and preserve teak and other hardwoods. The three products below cover everything your sofa set's teak frame needs, from routine cleaning through to long-term colour protection.

Golden Care Teak & Hardwood Cleaner

STEP 1 — CLEAN

Use for: Removing dirt, grime, mildew and grey discolouration from teak, restoring the timber before any protective treatment is applied.

How to use: Dilute as directed on the bottle. Apply to the damp timber and scrub gently along the grain with the green scrubbing pad (or a soft-bristled brush), working in small sections. Rinse thoroughly with clean water and allow the frame to dry fully before applying a protector.

Frequency: As needed to remove staining, and always as the first step before applying Teak Shield or Teak Protector.

Golden Care Teak & Hardwood Shield

STEP 2 (OPTION) — PROTECT THE GREY LOOK

Use for: Choose this if you like the natural, weathered silver-grey patina and simply want to protect it. Shield is invisible and transparent — it makes the timber water- and dirt-repellent and helps prevent staining while keeping the natural grey patina look.

How to use: Apply to clean, dry teak with the application cloth, working thin, even coats along the grain. Allow to dry fully between coats as per the product instructions.

Frequency: Every 6–12 months, or when water no longer beads on the surface.

Golden Care Honey Brown Teak & Hardwood Protector

STEP 2 (OPTION) — RESTORE & MAINTAIN THE GOLDEN COLOUR

Use for: Choose this if you want to keep or restore that original golden-honey teak colour rather than letting it grey off. It's an easy-to-apply, water-based protector that maintains the warm honey-brown finish while also protecting against moisture and dirt.

How to use: Apply evenly to clean, dry teak with the application cloth, following the grain. Two coats are generally recommended for new or freshly cleaned teak, allowing the product to dry between coats.

Frequency: Every 3–6 months (more often in harsh coastal or high-UV conditions) to maintain an even, golden colour.

Tip: Golden Care also make application tools — hard green scrubbing pads for cleaning teak, and soft application cloths for applying Shield or Protector — which make the process quick and even. Keep these products off the Sunbrella fabric, and cover or remove squabs while treating the frame nearby.

4 At-a-Glance Maintenance Schedule

Brush off / hose down squabs	Every 2–4 weeks	Soft brush, clean water
Light clean of Sunbrella fabric	Every 2–3 months, or as needed	Mild soap solution + soft brush
Stubborn stain / mildew treatment on fabric	As needed	Diluted bleach & mild soap solution
General dust / rinse of teak frame	Every 2–4 weeks	Water, soft cloth or brush (with the grain)
Deep clean teak (remove grime, grey staining)	Every 3–6 months, or as needed	Golden Care Teak & Hardwood Cleaner
Protect teak (grey patina look)	Every 6–12 months	Golden Care Teak & Hardwood Shield

Protect / restore teak (golden-honey look)	Every 3–6 months	Golden Care Honey Brown Teak Protector
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5 Quick Do's & Don'ts

DO

- Do brush off dirt and debris from squabs regularly, before it becomes embedded in the fabric.
- Do stand cushions on their end, or bring them undercover, during heavy or prolonged rain so they can drain and dry.
- Do always work in the direction of the timber grain when cleaning or treating the teak frame.
- Do allow both the fabric and the teak to dry fully before covering or storing the set.

DON'T

- Don't machine-dry, iron or apply direct heat to Sunbrella squabs — air dry only.
- Don't dry-clean Sunbrella fabric, and avoid household detergents — stick to a mild soap solution.
- Don't use a pressure washer directly on the teak frame — it can strip fibres and roughen the surface.
- Don't store damp cushions in sealed bags or covers, as trapped moisture can encourage mould growth.

Golden Care Teak & Hardwood Cleaner, Teak & Hardwood Shield and Honey Brown Teak & Hardwood Protector are available in-store and online from Design Concepts NZ. For full Golden Care product information, ingredient safety data and video guides, visit [golden-care.com](https://www.golden-care.com).

Questions about caring for your sofa set? Call us on 0800 468 836 or email sales@designconcepts.co.nz — we're always happy to help.