



## KEEP YOUR INTERIORS DRY DURING MONSOON

With monsoons around the corner, the arrival of the rains brings colorful celebrations and relief from the heat every year but these rains bring their own hazards. As you watch the clouds gathering and wish for a heavy downpour, you wish you don't have to face the hassles that come along with the monsoon rains. Water seeping through the walls, termite infestations, fungus covering your walls and cupboards and not to mention the respiratory problems are few of the problems caused due to this.

Maintaining the pristine glow of your furniture during monsoon becomes a herculean task. As the humidity levels rise in the air, it not only affects the exterior of your houses but also jades away your precious silver, classy leather and elegant wood. Timely care and upkeep is required to keep the furniture and cabinets good as new and healthy.

Wood having an affinity for moisture becomes swollen during monsoon. Creaking furniture, damp sofas and smelly cupboards are common sights during monsoon but with little preparation one can beat the blues with flair and style. High moisture level causes growth of moulds on furniture and extreme changes in temperature causes cracks, raised grain, dull finishes, or worse. Leaking pipes, furniture kept next to windows, high humidity and cooking are few of the potential sources for moisture during monsoon.

These moulds can cause severe health problems if not treated on time. Therefore there is a need to prevent them which can be done with a little care and attention

Here we have some simple and practical tips to shield your wooden beauties this monsoon season:

- Avoid placing your fine wooden furniture near the windows, as exposure to rain can be harmful. Also, cross ventilation is a must for it keeps the room dry
- Furniture undergoes a lot of stress due to change in weather/moisture/infrequent and continuous exposure to water. This may often result in opening of joints and de-bonding of laminates in-spite of using good quality material. It is strongly advised to use a waterproof adhesive that protects furniture from de-bonding even when exposed to water.



- Never use a wet cloth to clean your sofas or chairs as moisture makes sofas damp. Use a soft and dry cloth to clean them. In case of a fungal growth on sofas, dip a soft cloth into a mixture of a liquid antiseptic and tepid water and rub the infected area with it
- Always keep a dehumidifier in your room if you have pieces of antique furniture. It is imperative to use a specially formulated waterproof bonding adhesive in furniture, which is exposed to water or placed in high humidity areas, so as to lengthen its durability.
- Wardrobes and cupboards should be kept a few inches away from the walls as the latter are damp in the monsoons. Place a few naphthalene or camphor balls in your wardrobe as they will absorb moisture. Neem leaves in cupboards are effective against silver fish, a common problem during rainy season. Cloves are an equally effective remedy
- Wooden doors generally tend to get jammed during monsoons. To make it easy to handle, fix a sturdy brass handle to your wooden door in the monsoons.
- Wooden floorings should properly Waxed (polished) as the moisture content in hardwood floors tends to make them warp.
- Garden chairs that are nylon webbed or painted metal, it's best to keep them indoors during the monsoons. It will prevent them from cracking or chipping of paint
- Mold can have some negative health effects, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Some of these negative health effects include allergic reactions, asthma, sneezing and other respiratory problems. Black mold in a kitchen can even trigger asthma episodes in asthmatics. To get rid of the same, identify the source of moisture in kitchen and keep the area dry. Ventilation in a kitchen will help reduce humidity levels that are often caused by cooking. Black molds can be cleaned off on hard surface with water and detergents
- Carpets should be done away with, during monsoons. If they are cotton ones, you can roll them and store away. But if they are made of more expensive material, add some silicon bags while rolling them. In case, you have to keep them, make sure that you don't step on them with wet feet.
- Moisture and humidity are an ideal breeding ground for termites in furnitures hence it is critical to pre-treat the furniture with an anti termite solutions such as Terminator.



These little and easy tips will make sure that your furniture remains healthy and clean during monsoon.

Since monsoon season lasts for a few months in India, it is a good idea to get a professional to do an inspection of your home, old or new, prior to the monsoon and ensure that you find and fix the problems that keep recurring. Once they have been fixed, after the monsoon, you can plunge into the decoration aspect.

And next time you are getting your furniture made, we recommend you use a water-resistant adhesive, Fevicol Marine, India's 1<sup>st</sup> waterproof adhesive that protects furniture from de-bonding when exposed to water to ensure the furniture remains unaffected by monsoon and 100% waterproof!

**By: Mr. Vishal Malhan**



# Prevent moisture damage

**Nilesh Mazumdar** shares tips on maintaining furniture in the rains

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- Wardrobes and cupboards should be kept a few inches away from the walls as the latter are damp in the monsoons. Place a few naphthalene or camphor balls in your wardrobe as they will absorb moisture. Neem leaves in cupboards are effective against silver fish, a common problem during rainy season. Cloves are an equally effective remedy
- Wooden doors generally tend to get jammed during monsoons. To make it easy to handle, fix a sturdy brass handle to them.
- When it comes to garden chairs that are nylon webbed or painted metal, it's best to keep them indoors during the monsoons. It will prevent them from cracking or chipping of paint

*The author is President, Sales & Marketing, Fevicol, Pidilite Industries Ltd*