

# WICKER CARE & MAINTENANCE



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## Material Properties

Gloster woven furniture is made from a polyethylene (PE) plastic material. Practical and soft to the touch, this material has many benefits including high suppleness, tear resistance, UV resistance and weather resistance. The coloured material is extruded through a shaped die to form the final fibre shape. The finished extruded and through-dyed wicker is completely weatherproof as well as being colourfast, extremely hard wearing and easy to clean. The wicker is resistant to chlorine, salt water, tanning lotions and oils. Gloster uses a more textured, thicker type of wicker than most other manufacturers. Although this wicker is harder to weave, it is stronger, more resistant to tension, tearing and splitting, wears better and gives a more natural feel to the product.

The basic structure of a woven item is made from a fully welded, powder-coated aluminium frame. Once welded, the entire frame is electro-statically powder coated in a tough, smooth finish that matches the colour of the wicker. This way, the frame is fully protected against corrosion and becomes virtually invisible once it has been woven over. Woven furniture can be left outside all year round and is able to withstand temperatures from  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $+55^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-4^{\circ}\text{F}$  to  $131^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). When very cold, the weave will become stiffer than normal and when very hot, the weave will become more elastic. However, it will always revert to its normal elasticity, once the ambient temperature stabilises.

## Cleaning

We recommend that woven furniture is regularly cleaned using a solution of 1:16 mild detergent to lukewarm water (less than  $100^{\circ}\text{F}/40^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). Thoroughly soak the wicker with the cleaning solution and gently agitate with a soft bristle brush to remove any ingrained dirt. Once suitably cleaned, wash away the cleaning solution using cold water. A pressure hose on a low setting is acceptable to use on woven furniture, but avoid any teak components, as the high pressure can erode the surface of the timber. It is important to remove all traces of foam from the wicker, as any left-over foam will leave a residue in the gaps in-between the weave which can then attract dirt. Dry any splashes on metal or teak frames to avoid water stains.

## Repairing

Scratch marks or abrasion to the edges of the fibre can be repaired by very briefly and carefully applying heat (i.e. the flame of a cigarette lighter) to the affected area and rubbing along the length of the fibre with a piece of hard cardboard to restore a smooth edge. This can be a tricky procedure to perfect, so we suggest you try a couple of test runs on an area of wicker that is hidden from view – i.e. on the underside of the furniture. If fibres are accidentally cut or broken, a piece of furniture can generally be repaired successfully by removing the broken section of wicker and carefully weaving in a new strip.