

STANDARDS OF QUALITY

WOODWORKING

Materials

1. Wood, wood products, finishes and hardware should be selected to achieve a finished piece that functions well, is durable and aesthetically appealing.
2. Wood used should be of furniture quality or grade, and free from blemishes unless intended for specific design effect.
3. The use of plywood and medium density fibreboard is acceptable, if veneered on both sides. The core used must be identified to the customer.
4. Wood must be dried to the moisture content appropriate to the design and function of the article.
5. Knots are acceptable if they are part of the design, and do not affect structural integrity.
6. Use of soft woods in heavy use areas should be avoided. Moving wooden parts (drawer sliders, etc.) should be of hard wood.
7. Commercially made mouldings, carvings and trims are not acceptable.
8. Hardware should be of high quality, smoothly operating and appropriate to the finished piece in weight, style and function.
9. Finishes should be chosen to complement the materials used and to be appropriate to the intended function of the piece.
10. Transparent finishes should enhance, not dominate, the quality of the wood. Stains should be used only to enhance the grain of the wood, rather than to disguise it or to represent the wood as being of a different type.
11. If wax or polish is used over a finish, the two must be compatible.
12. Non-toxic finishes must be used for articles that are intended for contact with food.
13. Pore fillers are acceptable on porous woods, and recommended on porous tabletops.
14. Wood filler is not to be used to compensate for inaccurate joints or to cover flaws in the wood.

Technique

1. All parts, structural or otherwise, should be square, (unless the design requires alternate angles), well joined, securely fastened and consistent throughout the piece.
2. Grain direction and orientation, and wood movement must be respected in the construction of the piece. Seasonal changes in relative humidity can be expected to alter the dimensions of solid wood and allowance for such movement must be made.
3. Moving parts should operate smoothly and with a minimum of pressure.
4. All surfaces should be smoothly sanded, scraped or planed with the grain. Gouges or ridges left by jointers or planers, and chipped and ragged ends from crosscutting are not acceptable.
5. Sharp edges should be rounded over. "Breaking the edge" will increase safety, durability and finish adhesion.
6. Screws and nails are to be concealed unless the design requires otherwise. Purchased wooden "buttons" are not considered an appropriate method of concealing screws and nails. An acceptable solution would be well-fitted wooden plugs which are compatible with the grain and colour of the surrounding wood. Plugs should be either consistent with or in contrast to surrounding wood.
7. Pencil marks and other marks used during construction should be removed where not appropriate.
8. Finishes should be applied evenly and consistently throughout, with surfaces sanded between coats to ensure a finished surface that is smooth to the touch. Finished pieces should be free of sags, brush marks and foreign matter.
9. Bottoms, backs and undersides should all be finished.
10. Glue should not be visible.
11. Hardware should be attached securely and squarely to ensure smooth operation.
12. Pyrography is the art of creating designs in wood with a wood-burning device and is permitted. The simple scorching of wood with an open flame is not acceptable.
13. The Craft Council recommends that instructions for use and care accompany each article.