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Outdoor Furniture

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Here are some tips on outdoor furniture care from University of Minnesota Extension Specialist Linda Reece:

Freshen redwood furniture with a thorough sudsing and rinse with a hose. Special penetrating sealers designed for redwood also help protect it from the elements.

Pine and Philippine mahogany benefit from soap and water, annual coats of varnish and an occasional treatment with automobile wax. Exterior paints and wood sealers also protect the wood.

Wash and rinse wrought iron furniture. Automobile wax will preserve the finish. Rub scratches and rust spots with steel wool, then put on a coat of metal primer and a coat of exterior enamel. Spray painting also will provide a smooth finish.

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Buying Outdoor Furniture

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Extension Specialist Linda Reece says outdoor furniture can also be used indoors. Many styles look at home in the family room as well as on the patio.

Redwood furniture should be deep red with the color penetrating the wood. Seats should be free of knots and all edges should be rounded or sanded smooth. Look for smooth ends at the joints and where decorations are secured on wrought iron furniture. Good quality wrought iron is guaranteed against rust.

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