

# Adirondack Outdoors

## Notes on Oak Furniture In The Garden

Oak is a naturally durable timber that weathers to silver grey over a period of about 12-18 months depending on a number of factors related to weather and exposure to sunlight.

During this weathering process, Oak also exhibits transitional changes which it will be useful to understand to get the most out of your furniture and minimise potential impact on other garden features.

One of the elements of Oak that contributes to its natural durability is Tannin, basically the same stuff that makes tea brown. As the Oak starts to weather it will leech excess tannin after rainfall. This shows itself as brown blotches on the surface of the timber and dark brown streaks on some of the vertical surfaces of the furniture, where this excess tannin is washing through. These are a perfectly natural part of the process of weathering and the majority of this stage usually lasts no more that a few months, depending on rainfall..

It is important to bear in mind that this Tannin can also affect surfaces on which the furniture stands. This can take the form of brown staining around the feet and underneath the furniture. While this staining will generally continue to reduce over time it may be advisable, where the chair is intended to be placed on delicate or particularly porous surfaces, to leave the chair on a more robust surface for the initial weathering period. Grass or gravel or similar surfaces are ideal and a few weeks ( particularly in wet weather) is usually long enough to significantly reduce the extent and likelihood of any staining on patios decks etc.