



 Qualita

## Soaped Oak Finish

Long popular in Scandinavia, yet still relatively unusual in the UK, soap treatment on oak furniture is an ideal way to achieve a pure, tactile, attractive and clean finish while also having the benefit of being easy to care for and maintain. It has advantages over oil and lacquered finishes in that it doesn't colour the wood and it preserves the natural appearance through a gentle bleaching effect, while avoiding yellowing. Because it tends to finish on the surface of the furniture - unlike an oil finish - it has greater resistance to water marks etc. Despite this difference, it can be sanded and re-finished just like oiled oak should it be needed - owing to any accidents happening to the surface.

Because of the alkaline nature of a soaped finish, it forms a protective barrier which helps to repel fatty acids such as food stains. Furthermore, this finish feeds lanolin to the timber through the surface helping to prevent drying out. However, if the environment is particularly dry and the surface does show signs of drying, then reapplying soap to the surface is a simple and easy process. Stains or scratches can even be removed by using a fine sandpaper, and reapplying the soap finish with a soft cloth - just like with an oiled finish.

For general care, simply dusting with a soft cloth, or occasional wiping with a very slightly damp cloth will keep this finish in fine condition.