

Care for your plaque – untreated it will just weather naturally

Our wooden plaques are delivered with the finish of your choice; either boiled linseed oil or teak oil. Wood is a natural product and each piece has its own characteristics. The rate that the sign weathers depends on its situation, for example full sun or shade and environmental conditions such as humidity. We have no control over these natural occurring conditions, but the plaque will last longer if given some simple and straight forward maintenance. For example, moss and lichen occur naturally will grow on all surfaces including the plaque in damp conditions.

If the plaque is left untreated, it will naturally slowly weather and blend in with its surroundings. The wood will naturally change colour as a result of ultra violet light. The wood may crack or split if it dries out completely, but with minor attention the sign or plaque will last for many years. All maintenance must be carried out when the wood is dry. If there has been a period of rain, please bring the plaque indoors and allow it to dry out before cleaning. It can normally be removed from its stake, but in damp conditions the wood will swell and cling to the stake. In this case both will have to be removed.

Oiled signs and plaques

Periodically treat the surface of the plaque with a light dressing of oil if it looks dry. Wipe the surface of the plaque with the cloth impregnated with boiled linseed oil. If the plaque is in full sun it will require this treatment more frequently, but less frequently if it is in a protected location. Moss or lichen growth can be removed with a toothbrush or damp cloth. Any discolouration can be removed by giving the sign a light sanding with either 80 grit sandpaper for bad case or finer 100 grit sandpaper for lighter discolouration. The plaque can then be given another coating of linseed oil. The engraving is sufficiently deep to allow several of these treatments.

Linseed oil and teak oil can be bought at B&Q or any hardware store. A bottle costs about £3.00 to £4.00. Place the plaque into a large sturdy plastic bag, pour some linseed oil into the bag and carefully rub the oil all over the plaque. Leave it in the bag for a day and night. Rub the oil into the plaque whenever you can. Remove the plaque from the bag and rub with dry cloth or kitchen towel, leave to dry for a few hours before putting it back outside. You can pour the oil which is still in the bag back into the bottle and store a cloth in the oil bag. Seal the bag as you can re use the cloth to rub the plaques.

If you find that the plaques are in an area where the green mould is about, you can brush them with the tooth brush whenever you notice the green and rub all over with the oiled cloth. They should remain well oiled if in a very damp area.

Wychwold Ltd can not be held responsible for the maintenance of sold plaques. Weathering is a natural process for hardwood and it takes years to break down if left untreated. All plaques require some maintenance to keep them in a good lasting condition.