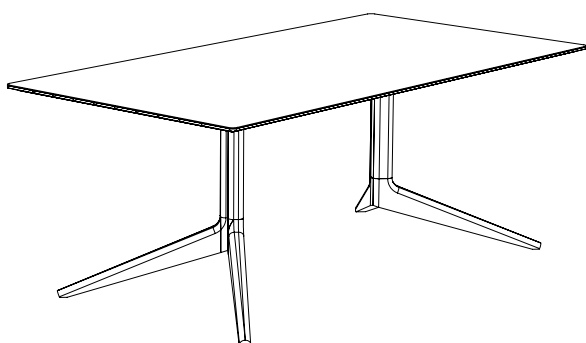


**IMPORTANT CARE INFORMATION****341 LIGHT TABLE BY MATTHEW HILTON**

Solid wood is hygroscopic, meaning it will absorb and expel moisture in response to its environment, swelling or contracting with fluctuations in humidity, throughout its life. This behaviour is part of the ever-changing beauty and character of the material.

In winter, solid wood furniture is particularly susceptible to shrinkage as the cold, dry air from outside seeps into the home, driving down the relative humidity often to as low as 20% or lower. This shrinkage may cause cracks, and such cracks usually appear within a plank on planar elements such as tabletops or cabinet tops, near the end of the plank. Cracks can happen very quickly, within hours. These cracks will not affect the performance of the product, and can be embraced as a natural characteristic of the material. With increased humidity, the plank may swell, decreasing the appearance of any cracks.

These instructions include guidance for maintaining the correct humidity levels for your solid wood furniture to control movement, and options for responding to any wood movement that does occur.

**PREPARE THE ROOM FOR DELIVERY**

To ensure the optimal conditions for your furniture, we recommend preparing in advance the room in which the product will be installed. To give the room time to achieve the optimal conditions, we recommend doing the following approximately one week prior to delivery.

**USE AN RH HYGROMETER**

Monitor the humidity in the room using an RH hygrometer. This low cost device is widely available, and can be purchased from reputable firm Wagner Meters <https://www.wagnermeters.com/shop/th-200-thermo-hygrometer/>. The ideal relative humidity in the environment is 50%.

**USE A HUMIDIFIER (IF NEEDED)**

If the humidity in the environment falls below 45%, keep a humidifier in the room to raise it to 50%, being sure to continue to monitor the humidity using the RH Hygrometer.

**DAY TO DAY - LIVING WITH THE 341 LIGHT TABLE**

Keep an eye on the relative humidity in the product's environment throughout the product's life, and alter the environment as needed to achieve 50% relative humidity.

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LIGHTTABLECARE

Beware of radiators and air conditioning ducts in close proximity to your timber furniture. These can create a very dry environment.

Although the product is engineered to perform well even with wood movement, if you do not maintain the recommended climate for your furniture then the boards can warp, crack, or gaps may appear between the extending panels due to swelling.

#### MEASURE HUMIDITY

The simplest way to measure the humidity in the environment is by using an RH Hygrometer. If the humidity in the environment falls below 45%, keep a humidifier next to the piece of furniture, to increase the moisture in its environment to 50%.

#### BRIGHT LIGHT/SUNLIGHT

Timber is a natural material and the colour/tone can bleach, fade and shrink, causing cracks if the table is exposed to UV light, and this process is accelerated the more intense the exposure. You may wish to limit exposure to sunlight such as by closing curtains when the room is not in use. Additionally you may wish to consider installing ultra-violet (UV) filtering film on windows to limit the fading and discolouration caused by UV rays.

#### MOVING THE TABLE

To allow for the extending function, the tabletop is connected to the base of the table only by the sliding hardware. Due to this construction, it is important to NEVER carry, lift or move the table by the upper leaves as this may damage the table. Always move the table by the subframe (the angled frame that sits beneath the top leaves) only. To allow adequate access to the subframe, first remove both extension leaves, and close and lock the tabletop before moving.

Tabletop panels can bow upward or come away from the table hardware if the table is moved/carried by the tabletop. Use the utmost care and attention when moving any wood furniture as it can mark easily if banged. Dents or deep scratches on the table panels or leg can result from moving parts of the table without due care and attention.

#### KEEP THE TABLE LOCKED

The locks on the underside of the tabletop act as braces for the timber leaves, so it is very important to make sure the thumb screws are always kept locked when the table is not being actively extended or contracted. There are locking positions for the table when displayed without leaves, with one leaf, and when used with both extension leaves. Please ensure they are used at all times, otherwise you will risk damage to the table mechanism.

#### **PROBLEM SOLVING**

If cracks appear in your furniture, please do not be alarmed. This is a natural response of the timber to the changing environment.

#### CONTROL RELATIVE HUMIDITY

The product's environment should ideally have a relative humidity of 50%.

Measure the humidity in the environment by using an RH Hygrometer. If the humidity in the environment is lower than 45%, keep a humidifier next to the piece of furniture to increase the moisture in its environment. Alternatively, if a humidifier is not available, place a bucket filled with water near the piece of furniture, as this will add humidity to the room as the water evaporates.

#### LIMIT SUN EXPOSURE

If relevant, move the table away from direct sunlight, cover it with a tablecloth, install blinds, or use UV filters on glass.

RESTORE MOISTURE WITH A WET CLOTH - OILED FINISHES ONLY

Wipe all exposed areas of the timber with a wet cloth twice daily for two weeks. The cloth should be slightly wetter than damp, so when you wipe it across the surface you can see a glaze of water across the timber, but no puddles. Wipe all exposed surfaces with special concentration on edges (end grain) as this is where most of the moisture escapes.

This wet cloth procedure will affect the surface finish, raising the grain, so at the end of the two weeks, we recommend that you restore the beauty of the finish by sanding down the item to a smooth finish, then applying Wax Refresher (for Danish or white oil finishes) or black oil (for black oil finishes). Find sanding and application instructions on the De La Espada website.

FILL CRACKS WITH SOFT WAX

If cracks remain after following all of the above advice, you may wish to fill them with a cosmetic repair wax in a matching colour. The wax will temporarily fill the crack, then when conditions are more humid and the timber naturally swells to regain its original shape, the wax will push out as the crack closes and can be removed easily. Alternatively, a professional can carry out a repair that involves applying wood glue and sawdust to the crack.

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