

All about the wood

and its maintenance

One of the most decay resistant timbers known, Kwila is an imported hardwood and is available in New Zealand from a number of locations including Indonesia, Fiji and the Solomon Islands. The New Zealand timber importers we deal with have a policy to import wood only from locations which are sustainably managed and produced in accordance with the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) guidelines, these guidelines are for the sustainable management of natural forests or established plantations. This means the forests are not being harvested at a greater rate than they can grow. We understand how precious our timbers are today and therefore only produce furniture of a quality that does justice to the wood. Kwila is a very dense tight grained wood heavily laden with rich tropical oils and tannins, the advantage being its ability to eliminate moisture penetration, it does not need oiling and is naturally weather and rot resistant. When new the timber will bleed a dark red brown tannin on the first four or five occasions that it is exposed to rain. This can temporarily mark concrete or wooden decks but will bleach out with the sun. This process can be accelerated and the stain avoided by running a sprinkler over the furniture while placed on a grass surface. The furniture can be oiled or left natural which will weather to a silver grey patina. The surface can be restored to its natural colour by lightly sanding. If you decide to oil the furniture we recommend oils that are designed for the decks of boats, we can't think of a more harsher environment. The wood will darken after oiling; however the silver grey colour will reappear if left.