



### **How does Kwila compare with Teak or Jarrah?**

Both Teak and Jarrah are impressive timbers, but we feel kwila with many of their characteristics is the best choice for outdoor furniture, it has a hardness factor almost twice that of teak and slightly harder than jarrah. In the past teak held a well deserved reputation for long life durability in the outdoors, it was then sourced from Burma and the Indian subcontinent. Today the same quality is scarce and extremely costly, the alternative, plantation teak is milled in earlier maturity and does not compare as a reliable substitute. Kwila is one of the most decay resistant timbers known, its extreme hardness is a result of its densely packed fibre, the advantage being its ability to eliminate moisture penetration. Again measurements show its density superior to both teak and jarrah. When left untreated kwila weathers to a silver grey patina, the same as teak and jarrah, it doesn't need oiling and is naturally weather and rot resistant. And finally Kwila requires no maintenance to ensure its continued durability in all weather conditions.

### **What features identify good quality outdoor furniture?**

Apart from the appearance and comfort features of the design you need to consider the following.

- The number and size of the chair components holding the furniture together. >
- How much of the furniture assembly is glued and how much is screwed together?
- Are the fittings made of stainless steel & brass or are they brass plated steel?
- To see how well tables are assembled check the underside. How many cross braces stabilise the table top, are they held by one or more screws, how thick are the components? > Look at the size & scale of the timbers eg. Are the table tops the same thickness throughout or just on the outside, check the thickness of table & chair legs, are they linked with stretchers all round ?
- Do the table tops flex when you lift one end?
- Is the furniture delivered assembled or as a kitset?
- Are the joints made with dowels or mortise and tenon?
- Do the seat covers have cavities for insects to nest in? >
- What warranty cover is given?

### **Why is there such a price difference when shopping for outdoor furniture?**

There are many choices of outdoor furniture available today. Many look similar in appearance but subtle differences in design and construction make a big difference in the life and durability of the furniture, not to mention the comfort. The cost of the finished product reflects the design, the

amount and complexity of the labour involved, the joinery, hardware and finally the quality and thickness of the timber chosen. Don't let prices mislead you, there are few products in use today that someone cannot make a little cheaper. By reducing the quality of materials (for example the fabric) and using weaker and inferior assembly methods, prices can be cut. Unfortunately when used outdoors life is shortened and replacement cost higher. Investment in quality ensures long life dependability. Our furniture is a little dearer than some on the market and not as high as others, we welcome you to compare the many benefits not available in most.

### **What is Mortise and Tenon joinery?**

Mortise and tenon joinery is the cabinetmakers traditional technique when maximum strength is essential for joining two pieces of wood at right angles. Mortise's are rectangular cavities cut into the wood of a chair or table leg to form half of the joint. Each mortise is designed to accept a tenon. The tenon is the projection on the end of a piece of wood carefully shaped to fit snugly into the mortise.

### **What is the life of the metal fittings?**

All materials are carefully selected without exception. Rather than using zinc plated or galvanised fittings to combat the elements outdoors, we use only the best marine grade solid brass or stainless steel on our furniture. If you want a lifetime of use from your furniture we strongly recommend stainless steel, particularly if you live near the sea or in high humidity areas.

### **Why use wood?**

Durability: As you would have seen above kwila is extremely durable in outside conditions.

Appearance: Unlike many other materials that deteriorate when left outside, the appearance of wood improves season after season making wood a natural choice to blend with nature in all outdoor settings.

### **Why is outdoor furniture so expensive?**

To reliably combat the harshness of the outdoors and still retain appearance requires the use of dependable materials. These materials are more costly, and the methods of construction more labour intensive than that required for interior furniture. Our policy is to use only the best materials and construction methods known and we don't compromise to reduce costs. This ensures Three Palms furniture is made to last. As a furniture manufacturer we are often asked to repair poor quality garden furniture that has broken, in most cases the owner has found the outlet where the item was purchased either no longer stock the line, or the manufacturer no longer exists. Unfortunately we are unable to repair other manufacturer's products.

### **What makes Three Palms different?**

As seen in days gone by, furniture manufacturer's were not restricted by the restraints of mass production. Their furniture reflected a quality almost forgotten nowadays. Today Three Palms offers a range of outdoor furniture designed with features unattainable when furniture is fabricated in large quantities, the designs are innovative and the attention to detail provides a distinct quality advantage.

### **Will the glue break down in wet conditions?**

No. We use a two-part glue, manufactured for extreme conditions and widely used in the boat building industry.

### **Fabric. What determines good quality fabric for outdoors?**

We choose only the best 100% acrylic textile fibre. The fibre is first dyed before it is spun for superior colour fastness. After spinning it is woven with the highest fibre count for tensile strength. The fibre does not absorb the wet and dries quickly after rain.

### **Does the furniture need to be oiled?**

When left outside, Three Palms Furniture requires no finish at all. Kwila is one of the most durable and maintenance free woods available in the world today, so you can leave your furniture outside uncovered all year round. However, if your furniture were to be located indoors or under permanent cover we would recommend it be given a protective coating of oil. This prevents stains and marks that would be washed and bleached away when left outside. For the best results we would recommend oils designed for the decks of boats.

### **Do I need to use a base to secure the umbrella under the table?**

No, the tables (except the bistro) are made in the refectory style, which means there is a stretcher linking the legs at the mid point under the table. The umbrella pole passes through the tabletop and then the stretcher which ensures the umbrella stands square to the table in an unobstructed manner. A simple locking pin system is available to prevent blow away with a similar system available for the bistro tables. Bases are available if required.

### **Is the furniture sold as a set or can I just buy the items I require now?**

If you just want to purchase one chair or you want to mix fabric colours, even different styles of chairs to tables, the choice is yours.

### **What if I need to purchase additional chairs at a later date, will the same designs still be available?**

While we continue to develop and extend our range, we rarely discard an item and will always include the full range of dining chairs for ongoing additions.

### **Bleeding. What is meant by the wood bleeding?**

When new furniture first gets wet, reddish brown sap will leach out of the wood. This is common in a number of hardwoods and particularly with Kwila. The process is not ongoing and will diminish over 4 – 5 wet periods. Although staining will occur, it is not permanent and will fade in the sunlight. To avoid this condition we recommend the furniture be temporarily placed on grass and even hosed down with a sprinkler.

### **Why should I wait weeks for your furniture to be delivered when I can buy imported hardwood furniture for almost immediate delivery?**

It depends on the comfort and life expectancy you are looking for. We don't make lightweight kitset furniture with shipping and packaging issues to influence our designs. Our made to order policy offers our customers a superior alternative to the general trend of mass production. Each order is handcrafted especially for the client. Our precise construction methods are stronger but more labour intensive, most joints are fully glued, and unless requested the furniture is delivered fully assembled. So yes, we do take a little longer but the distinct quality advantage lasts a lot longer, making every purchase a good investment.

### **Do the umbrella lights fit any size market umbrella?**

Yes, we have 2 styles to fit poles ranging from 38 – 45mm and can make outside these sizes if required. The porthole style lights are designed to only fit our 3.6 market umbrella.

### When is your showroom open?

We open 7 days a week except for Christmas, Easter and the Months of June & July when we open 6 days a week. Our hours of business are Monday to Saturday 8 am to 4.30 pm and Sunday 10am to 4.30pm. Hours often extend past these times.

### Please summarise the important points for us to consider.

- Not mass-produced.
- Furniture of superior strength & durability handcrafted in the traditional manner using the best materials available worldwide. Innovative designs unique to Three Palms.
- Wood or fabric backed chairs offer superior comfort with their multi- purpose flexible backrest. >
- Over [20 colours](#) in marine grade fabric to choose from.
- Chair fabric secured in a discreet manner. >
- Superior cross bracing to stabilize the under side of the tabletops. >
- Distinct attention to detail with many extras not normally found on similar priced products. For example the gold plated brass casting that surround the umbrella hole in the tables. >
- Heavy wide tabletop boards. >
- Three Palms furniture is made in New Zealand for long life dependability & backed with a 10 year structural guarantee.