



Wychwold Ltd

82 Wycoller Ave, Brunshaw, Burnley, BB10 4LF.

Care for your plaque – untreated it will just weather naturally

Our wooden plaques are delivered with the finish of your choice; either exterior rated varnish or boiled linseed 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. The maintenance required will depend on the type of original finish. 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 can be bought at B&Q or any hardware store. A bottle costs about £2.00 to £3.00. 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 linseed 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.

Varnished plaques

The varnish applied to the plaque is a exterior high grade varnish. We apply 4 coats of varnish to seal the wood. It will require a periodic wiping with a damp rag whenever the surface looks dirty. However, even the best varnish can yellow and flake and even crack after prolonged exposure to sunlight and moisture. The time scale for it to show signs of weathering depends on where the plaque has been placed, the amount of sunlight it has received and the amount of rain or moisture present. If this happens it is possible to give the plaque a light sanding to restore the original wood surface and another coat of varnish. All engraving is deep enough for even badly weathered items to be restored to nearly new condition. Clean your plaque when the wood is dry. Rub it down with 80-100 grade sandpaper then a rub with 100 - 150 grade sandpaper. Ensure all sawdust is off and the plaque is clean and dry. Varnish it to seal it. You can use Ronseal Out door varnish which is the shop version of the varnish we use. Yacht varnish does not last long in the sun as it is designed more for water protection rather than sun protection.

CONTACT US IF YOU NEED HELP WITH MAINTENANCE OF YOUR PLAQUE.....

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.