



Carving Care

Congratulations! You now own a one-of-a-kind piece of art. Your carving has been treated over 10 times with both wood stabilizer and preservative, followed by water and UV repellent clear coats. The goal is to allow the wood to slowly dry, sometimes out the bottom and sometimes throughout the entire carving. Many carvings will be given a relief kerf cut down the back of the carving that will help relieve pressure as it dries. This cut is generally unnoticed, and will help avoid larger cracking down the front of the carving. Some carvings are matched with unique logs or designed to remove most of the center of the log, which can eliminate most of the cracking while drying. Although your carving has been carefully planned out and treated with nearly a dozen coats of treatment, it is now your responsibility to care for your carving. Here are some tips to extend the life of your carving and keep wowing everyone who sees it for years to come.

Best Environment

- Outdoors
- Full or partial shade
- Elevated off of the ground at least 1 inch (furniture pegs, large screws, wood blocks, patio blocks, rocks)
 - The bottom of your carving will most likely be left unsealed to allow “breathing” to eventually dry. Not allowing room for air movement will cause your carving to take in too much moisture and rot.
- Under some type of overhead protection is great, but not actually that important.
- During winter, indoors. Although not essential, bringing your carving indoors during winter months can help. If you do bring indoors, **do not** place near a heat source. This can cause uneven drying during the first few critical years of the log slowly drying. An unheated indoor area is ideal.

Things to Avoid

If your carving will be indoors, avoid placing it next to a heat source. The air will be very dry, and it will accelerate drying of your carving, which can also cause excess cracking.

- Solution: Try to leave your carving outdoors for 2–4 years and allow for natural drying. Your carving will reach an “equilibrium” and then can be put indoors without experiencing much cracking.
- **Do not** place your carving directly on carpets or floors, as this can ruin floors and cause mold on the base of your carving.

Avoid direct sunlight, or at least a large amount of it. As with anything else, large amounts of sunlight can cause fading. If you must have your carving in direct sunlight, try to face your carving away from the sun. The sun can cause the carving to crack on that side, so make sure it is the least important side.

If your carving is relatively light and/or fragile, avoid leaving it unprotected in an area where someone can easily vandalize or steal.

Protecting Your Carving

Especially for outdoor carvings, we recommend that you apply 1-2 clear coats to your carving each year. After the first several years, you should only need to apply 1 coat per year.

Minwax has an inexpensive and easy-to-apply aerosol spar urethane. You can find it at most hardware stores (Menards, Walmart, Ace, Hardware Hanks, True Value, Home Depot, etc.). Simply spray your carving and allow for at least 24 hours of drying.

Western Log Home Supply is the best place to get your carving care products. They have several great products, but I would recommend "Log-Geivity Log Finish Coat". Your carving has several coats of this product already, and I would recommend this for getting the maximum life out of your carving. You are essentially protecting your carving from harmful UV rays and taking in excess moisture. These coats will also keep your carving looking shiny and clean.

Whether you purchased your carving already painted or you purchased it raw, many years down the road might require a new paint job. You can bring your carving to me for a small fee and have it repainted, or you can become an artist too and paint it to your liking. You might be surprised at the satisfaction and fun you can have contributing to the artwork.