

SOLID IROKO GARDEN SWING · ITALIAN TEAK OIL FINISH

Garden Swing Maintenance Calendar.

A properly maintained solid Iroko swing stays in the garden for 10-15 years. A poorly maintained one (or one never maintained) wears out in 3-4 years. This calendar does not tell you what to do every single month — it tells you what to do when it is needed. It asks not for a daily routine but for seasonal discipline.

QUICK ANSWER

Per year, **1 oil application** (March-April spring opening; an optional light autumn coat in intense sun), **2 cushion washes**, and **2 connection checks** make up the standard maintenance regime. In winter the swing can stay outdoors — bring the cushions inside, cover it with a breathable tarpaulin. Total annual maintenance time is 3-5 hours; a reasonable investment to carry a product to 15 years.

MATERIALS AT A GLANCE

Frame	100% solid Iroko (<i>Milicia excelsa</i>)
Drying	Kiln-dried — movement minimised
Surface	Italian teak oil, 3 progressive coats
Cushion fabric	100% Solution-Dyed Olefin — light-fastness 7-8 (ISO 105-B02), water-repellent, antibacterial
Fill	Silicone fibre
Connecting hardware	Hidden architecture — corrosion-resistant stainless, top segment

WHAT YOU NEED

- Italian Teak oil (penetrating, leaves no film)
- Soft cloth or wide brush (oil application)
- 220 grit fine sandpaper
- Breathable tarpaulin cover (not plastic)
- Screwdriver (connection check)

Year-round care plan

March

SPRING OPENING

Focus: Post-winter check

- Clear the whole frame of dust/pollen with a soft brush or damp cloth
- Tighten all bolts and connections one turn with a screwdriver (do not over-tighten)
- Visually inspect the metal hanger arms and their bolts — rust, cracks, loosening
- Machine wash cushion covers at 30°C on a delicate program, dry in the shade

April

SPRING OPENING

Focus: Main oil coat

- Lightly open the surface with 220 grit fine sandpaper along the grain (increases oil absorption capacity)
- Apply Italian Teak oil in a thin coat along the grain with a soft cloth or wide brush
- Do not over-apply the oil — give only what the wood can absorb, remove the excess with a dry cloth after 15 min
- Leave to dry for 24 hours, after which the cushions can be put back

May

SPRING

Focus: First-use check

- Visually check the metal hanger arms and bolts once a week during use
- On swings older than 5 years, check the hanger-arm holes for ovalisation or play
- Check whether dampness or mould has formed on the ground under the swing — move the floor pad if needed

June

EARLY SUMMER

Focus: Before peak-usage intensity

- As the month of heaviest UV exposure begins, record the cushion colour with a photo (for annual comparison)
- Plan a shade canopy or tree shade in Mediterranean/Aegean coastal regions
- Check for salt/rust build-up on the hardware in salty/humid climate regions (Marmara, Black Sea)

July

SUMMER

Focus: Optional mid-season oil coat

- Only in high-UV regions (Antalya, Mersin, Adana, Aydin) apply a light mid-season oil coat
- Wash the cushion cover one more time, dedicated to mid-summer
- Be careful that the swing wood is not in bright sun hours that accentuate colour fading

August

SUMMER

Focus: Peak-usage period

- With heavy use (4+ hours weekly) repeat the connection check once a month
- If dust and pollen build up on the ground in summer use, brush the floor pad weekly
- Prevent the cushions from staying in direct sun for hours during hot midday (the cover fades)

Year-round care plan (continued)

September EARLY AUTUMN Focus: Season review - Take a photo record of the use season, compare the grey patine level with June - Check the wood for local drying (inside grooves, cracks at joints) — if any, give only that area a light touch of oil - As September usage intensity drops, start the routine of bringing the cushions in week by week	October AUTUMN Focus: Pre-winter check (optional light coat) - The annual oil care was done in April; an extra coat before winter is not required - On sites with intense sun, or if the surface dulled over the summer, a thin protective coat may be applied — it preserves the colour - If you apply a coat, the surface must be completely dry and clean, air above 10°C and no rain forecast - Do not let the wood contact water for 48 hours after application
November LATE AUTUMN Focus: Winter preparation - Wash the cushion covers, bring them in, store them in a dry, airy area - Check the bolts of the metal hanger arms and tighten a turn if needed - Cover the swing with a breathable tarpaulin (not plastic) — so the frame is protected without trapping moisture - Lay a moisture-proof base under the frame (reduces rain splash)	December - February WINTER Focus: Passive season - If snow piles up, clean it with a soft brush (a metal shovel damages the wood) - Check for condensation under the tarpaulin cover — lift it occasionally (15 min) for ventilation - In regions of extreme cold (below -15°C) keep the cushions and canopy fabric indoors; the metal hanger arms are unaffected by frost - You do not do active application in these months — observation is enough

Practical problem-solution table

The “Urgency” column is for the usage decision. For high-urgency problems, stop using the swing immediately and call the maker's warranty.

SYMPTOM	WHAT TO DO	URGENCY
Local staining on the surface	Soft cloth + warm soapy water; if it does not come off, 220 grit sanding + re-oil	Low
Bolt loosening	Tighten one turn with a screwdriver — do not over-force	Low
Rust on the hardware	If not stainless A2/A4, replace the bolt; on A2/A4 a surface stain is only cosmetic	Medium
Surface crack in the wood (hairline crack)	Apply oil and watch — if it closes it is cosmetic, if it opens it is a warranty call	Medium
Loosening or play at a joint	Tighten the bolts a turn; if the play persists, stop use and contact the maker	High
Mould on the cushion	Wash the cover at 30°C and dry the filling in the sun; if it recurs the filling has taken on moisture — ask the maker for a replacement	Medium
Crack, bending or loose bolt on a metal hanger arm	If loose, tighten the bolt; if cracked or bent, stop use and call the maker	High

Cushion cover

The cushion cover has a zip and can be machine washed at a maximum of 30°C on a delicate or synthetics program. Use liquid detergent; never fabric softener or bleach — they damage the water-repellent finish. Do not spin; lay flat to dry, and never tumble-dry. For everyday dust and light marks, wiping with warm soapy water and a soft cloth is enough. The silicone fill part is not washed — only the cover is removed. 2-3 washes a year (spring opening, mid-summer, autumn closing) are enough.

Grey patina

Grey patine is a natural UV reaction and not a structural problem; it is a matter of aesthetic preference. If you want the original golden-amber colour back: (1) clear the surface of dust with a soft brush, (2) wipe lightly with diluted vinegar (1:3), wait until dry, (3) open the surface one pass with fine sandpaper (220 grit), (4) apply Teak oil along the grain. The colour returns after 24 hours.

Wood is a working material

You set up a plastic swing once, then forget it — after 3 years the plastic breaks under UV and there is no repair. A wooden swing is the opposite: a little seasonal attention beautifies it for 15 years. A swing that has gone grey patine returns to its original colour with a 4-hour afternoon's work; a cracked connection is fixed with a bolt tightening. The maker's job is not to build the swing to last 5 years but to last 15 years with the owner's attention. This guide shows what that attention looks like.