

## Would you mind answering a few questions?

- a. **Timber Joints.** Do you use mortise and tenons to join your timber pieces? The boards on a tabletop should always be joined using timber “biscuits”. The quality of these biscuits can also vary. They must be able to expand and contract with the timber’s natural seasonal movements.
- b. **Glue.** Some glue is far superior to others allowing a degree of flexibility thus allowing the timber to move seasonally preventing cracking and superior strength withstanding great strain.
- c. **Hardware.** Screws for timber feature a different type of thread and point than those developed for metals, so they grip better and last longer in rot-prone environments. Screws are available in many materials and coatings. For example outdoor tables should always have galvanized screws. Teak furniture stainless steel is best. Zink screws are rust resistant however if the coating is damaged it will rust.
- d. **Drawer runners** vary greatly in quality and use. We recommend the **Blum** brand of drawer runners because of quality, options and warranty. Drawers are important to research because solid hardwood weighs more than Plywood or Pine so check the maximum weight the drawer runner can hold. Fully extendable drawer runners give enhanced access to the entire drawer. Soft close drawer runners prevent fingers being slammed. Push catch drawer runners mean no need for handles (for aesthetics or practicality).
- e. **Finish.** There are many different finishes available when sealing the timber on your furniture. That’s a whole Blog on it’s own! (I plan to do in the next few weeks). In the meantime the coating on your solid timber furniture is dictated by practicality e.g., tabletops need to be durable protected from direct sunlight and pooling water and aesthetics e.g., you may be designing for a certain interior design. Durability varies greatly amongst polyurethanes, lacquers, oils and shellacs. Clear coating showing the timber’s natural colour and gloss levels can affect the light dispersion of the natural grain. Staining is great if you would like to colour your timber but remember if badly scratched it will need to be completely sanded back and re-stained and coated to repair.