

# RED MERANTI GATE CARE AND MAINTENANCE

## Storage

Prior to installation, gates must be stored in a safe, clean, dry location out of direct sunlight. We recommend removing the outer packaging and laying the gate flat on bearings that fully support the width of the gate and allow for air flow on all sides. For best results, allow the gate to acclimate to the local climate and moisture levels of the job site for at least a week prior to installation, if possible. During storage, take precautions to ensure the gate is not exposed to extreme heat, dryness, or humidity.

## Hardware

Since our gates are made with solid hardwood, they are quite heavy. Make sure to choose heavy-duty hardware that is rated for the appropriate weight to mount your gate. We recommend installation with 3 hinges.

- 36" wide gates approximate weight 55 lbs.
- 42" wide gates approximate weight 60 lbs.

## Finishing

Our gates come pre-oiled to help protect against the elements and maintain the wood's natural beauty. We recommend the re-application of a UV protective oil every 18 months (or sooner if color fade is noticeable) to maintain the natural beauty and prolong the gate's lifespan.

- Application methods vary; make sure to follow the UV oil manufacturer's application instructions.
- Start from the top and work your way down, taking care to apply an even coverage. Pay extra attention to areas prone to moisture intrusion, such as the top and bottom edges and joints.
- It is best to apply finish during a period of dry weather. Avoid contact with moisture until the application is fully cured.
- If you wish to apply a different finish such as paint or stain to the gate, we recommend allowing the pre-applied UV oil to weatherize and "burn off" naturally prior to sanding and applying your new finish. Otherwise, take steps to thoroughly remove the existing finish prior to application of the new finish. Follow the finish manufacturer's preparation and application instructions.
- Over time, minor expansion and contraction of the interior panels can reveal an unfinished portion where it meets the stiles and rails. If this occurs, touch up the exposed area using UV protective oil, or stain/paint matching your applied finish.
- Dark stain and paint colors should be avoided as they will intensify the natural expansion and contraction of the wood, which can lead to warping and excessive checking.

## Maintenance

Routine cleaning is recommended to prevent a buildup of dirt and grime and leave your gate looking like new.

- Wipe down the surface with soft brush or cloth.
- Use mild soap and water for tougher stains.
- In case of stubborn stains of moss or lichen use a power washer.
- Lubricate moving parts frequently. Listen out for squeaking sounds which is a good indicator your gate's hardware needs it.
- Prevent rust on hardware by applying a coat of wax or sealant to the metal and reapply as needed. If the hardware is completely rusted and can't be fixed, it's best to replace it.

## Checking

Checking is a natural process that occurs as wood dries out and is characterized by the formation of visible cracks that run parallel to the wood grain. As our gates are made with solid hardwood, they are

not immune to this phenomenon. However, precautions taken to slowly acclimate the gate to its ambient environment prior to installation will help reduce checking (see Storage section above). Checking will typically occur within the first year, most often during the first prolonged hot and dry period. Normal surface checking does not affect the wood's structural properties and is only an aesthetic concern. We recommend using a high quality exterior wood filler to repair and hide unwanted checking.