



Care and Maintenance Guide for Moving Parts (Swivels, Springs, Hinges, and Levelers)

Introduction:

Moving parts, such as swivel mechanisms, swivel-rocking mechanisms, hinges, and levelers, require regular maintenance to ensure smooth operation and to prevent wear over time. Proper care will keep your outdoor furniture functioning efficiently and prolong its lifespan. The following steps will guide you through the best methods for cleaning, lubricating, and maintaining these parts.

Cleaning the Moving Parts

Cleaning the moving components is important before lubricating any part to remove dirt, debris, and excess old grease that can accumulate and cause friction.

Tools Needed:

- Soft brush and/or compressed air
- Microfiber cloth or rag
- Mild soap and water

Instructions:

1. Remove any cushions from the frames to fully expose the mechanisms.
2. Use a soft brush or compressed air to gently clean around the moving parts, including hinges and swivel/rocker mechanisms. This will help dislodge dirt, dust, and debris.
3. Dampen a microfiber cloth with a mild soap and water solution and wipe the surface of the mechanisms. Avoid soaking any metal parts, especially ball bearings.
4. Once clean, thoroughly dry the area with a clean cloth to prevent rusting or moisture buildup.

Lubricating Swivel and Swivel Rocker Mechanisms

Lubricating the moving parts regularly will help maintain smooth motion and prevent the components from wearing down. The ball bearings inside swivel mechanisms require periodic lubrication for optimal performance.

Product Suggestions:

- **Silicone Spray:** A silicone-based spray works well for light lubrication and protection against moisture. This product is ideal for maintaining regular functionality without leaving residue.
- **White Lithium Grease:** White lithium grease is highly effective in reducing friction and protecting metal ball bearings for heavier lubrication and added protection, especially in high-use furniture.

Instructions:

1. Once the area is clean and dry, shake the silicone spray or lithium grease thoroughly before use.
2. Spray or apply the lubricant directly onto the swivel mechanism's ball bearings and moving parts. If you're using lithium grease, apply it sparingly to avoid excess buildup.
3. Move the chair or mechanism back and forth several times to work the lubricant into the bearings, ensuring it spreads evenly.
4. Wipe away any excess lubricant with a clean cloth to prevent dirt from sticking to the lubricated areas.

Maintaining Hinges

Hinges, commonly found in reclining or foldable furniture, also need regular maintenance to function correctly.

Product Suggestions:

- **Silicone Spray:** Works well for hinges as it lubricates and protects against corrosion without leaving a sticky residue.

Instructions:

1. Spray the silicone lubricant onto the hinges, being sure to reach all moving components.
2. Open and close the furniture several times to ensure the lubricant coats all surfaces evenly.
3. Wipe away any excess lubricant to avoid attracting dirt.

Adjusting and Maintaining Levelers

The levelers located at the bottom of the "feet" of your furniture frames help stabilize the furniture on uneven surfaces. Over time, these levelers can accumulate dirt or become difficult to adjust. Regular cleaning and lubrication will keep them functioning properly.

Instructions:

1. Check for Dirt and Debris: Unscrew the levelers from the feet and check for dirt, debris, or rust on the threads.
2. Clean the Threads: Use a soft brush to clean dirt and debris from both the leveler and the threaded insert on the foot of the frame.
3. Lubricate the Threads: Apply a small amount of silicone spray or anti-seize lubricant to the leveler's threads to keep them moving smoothly and prevent rust.
4. Reinstall and Adjust: Screw the leveler back in and adjust as needed to ensure the furniture sits level on the surface.

Pro Tip:

Periodically check the levelers for wear and tear. Consider replacing them if they become difficult to adjust or have rust or other buildup.

Frequency of Maintenance

It is recommended to lubricate your furniture's moving parts every six months. However, if you live in a coastal or humid environment, or use the furniture heavily, more frequent lubrication (every 3-4 months) may be necessary.

When not in use, **cover your furniture** to protect the mechanisms from dust, moisture, and debris, which can lead to wear and tear over time.

Pro Tip:

Always inspect your furniture's moving parts during regular cleaning. If you notice squeaking, stiffness, or difficulty in movement, apply lubricant sooner than your normal schedule.

Recommended Products

- **Silicone Spray:**
Available at most hardware stores, including Home Depot, Lowe's, or Amazon. Look for brands like **WD-40 Specialist Silicone Lubricant** or **CRC Heavy Duty Silicone**.
- **White Lithium Grease:**
For more intensive lubrication needs, **WD-40 White Lithium Grease** or **CRC White Lithium Grease** are excellent options, available at Home Depot, Lowe's, or similar retailers.
- **Anti-Seize Lubricant (for levelers):**
Look for products like **Permatex Anti-Seize Lubricant** for keeping leveler threads rust-free and easy to adjust.

By following these simple steps, your swivel mechanisms, swivel rocking mechanisms, hinges, and levelers will remain functional and in good condition for many years. Regular cleaning and lubrication will prevent squeaks, reduce friction, and protect your furniture from long-term damage.

