

How to Repair Scratches/Cracks in the wood of your Sauna

Overview

All structures using wood are susceptible to minor dents, scratches and scuffing. This is normal and will not affect the integrity or functionality of your sauna. Wood is a living material that continues to respond to climate conditions, even after being manufactured into a sauna. Variations in the colour or grain and irregularities such as fine cracks are part of the natural beauty of the wood and in no way should be considered defects. During normal operation, wood may crack slightly due to the changes in moisture level.

Prior to manufacture, the wood used in the sauna production is inspected for consistency, colour and quality. Our saunas are shipped around the globe and can experience slight blemishes, scratches or scuffs in transit. In most cases, these blemishes on the exterior of the sauna can be concealed by using a small amount of furniture polish, oil or wax. The interior blemishes, scratches, or scuffs can be either left alone or sanded out. Please avoid any treatment containing benzene or a high concentration of alcohol.

Wood filler is extremely effective for repairing cracks and scratches in wood. We recommend water-based wood fillers for the interior of your sauna as they are safe to use, emit less or no odor, and contain minimal volatile organic compounds (VOCs). These wood fillers are made up of either wood fiber, cellulose, or gypsum. Alternatively, for a quick fix, a mixture of wood glue and sawdust seamlessly blends in small cracks and gaps in wood. Use epoxy resin to handle larger gaps on external wood pieces of outdoor saunas.

How to apply wood filler

Tools needed:

- Non-toxic waterbased wood filler
- Putty knife or smoothing tool
- Sand paper - 220 grit
- Sanding block - optional
- Damp cloth

Steps to take:

1. Prepare the surface, for the area in question, by removing splinters or chips and then lightly sanding down to remove any rough edges using a 220 grit sandpaper.
2. The wood needs to be clean for a stronger adhesion so remove any dust with a vacuum cleaner or damp cloth.
3. Use a non-toxic water based filler - especially on the inside. A wax based filler on the inside of your sauna will run and cause unsightly stains in the area that the filler is applied. If you are using a water-based filler in a tube remember to release the the initial squeeze onto a tissue as this tends to be more liquidy.
4. Apply the filler only to the required area and press it in using the tool supplied or a putty knife. Remove any excess filler with the same tool and wipe the area around the filled crack with a damp cloth.



5. Let the filler dry. The drying time will vary based on the specific product you use and external influences like temperature and humidity. Be sure to check the manufacturer's guideline on this.
6. Once dried, sand down the area filled until it is smooth and even with the surrounding surface. Only sand the area in question so as not to cause unnecessary work later - especially if the wood is varnished/polished.

7. Water based wood filler tends to shrink when it dries so do not be alarmed if you need to repeat steps 5-8.
8. The inside of the sauna is untreated therefore no more processing is needed after step number 8.
9. Make sure you vacuum up any wood dust from sanding
10. If wood filler has been applied to the outside of your sauna then a wood wax will bring a required shine that will match the rest of your sauna.

Before and after (untreated wood)



Note: Treated wood filler (waxed, polished, varnished) can produce a different colour to untreated wood filler. It often has a darker colour.