When should patio furniture be covered or moved indoors?

Cover outdoor furniture when it will sit unused through rain, pollen, leaf drop, or long stretches of strong sun. Move it indoors for winter storage, severe weather, or any season when the space will stay wet and cold. Short, dry spells of everyday use usually need only routine cleaning, but longer idle periods call for protection.

Resin furniture is often chosen because it is easier to care for than many natural materials. That does not make it immune to grime, fading, or trapped water. The right decision depends on the weather, the piece, and how long it will be left alone.

Covering makes sense during long idle periods

A cover earns its place when furniture is exposed but not being used. Rain can leave water in joints, seat contours, and between stacked pieces. Pollen, dust, bird droppings, and tree sap settle faster on surfaces that nobody wipes down. In sunny months, UV exposure can gradually dull color and change the look of some finishes.

This is where easy care patio furniture still benefits from a simple habit. A chair that stays out in a sheltered corner for a few days may be fine. The same chair left through weeks of wet weather or heavy pollen is more likely to need scrubbing before it looks right again. Covers reduce the amount of debris that reaches crevices and slow the buildup that turns into stains.



Not every cover does the same job. A loose sheet that flaps in the wind can rub against frames and trap moisture underneath. A fitted cover with a secure edge is better, as long as air can move enough to stop condensation from sitting against the surface. Furniture should be dry before it is covered, since a damp chair under a cover can stay damp far longer than one in open air.

When indoor storage is the better choice

Indoor storage is the safer choice when furniture will be unused for a season, especially where freezing temperatures, repeated rain, or heavy snow are expected. A garage, shed, basement, or spare room keeps pieces out of the worst weather and reduces the need for deep cleaning later. It also limits the repeated wet and dry cycle that can stress fittings, feet, and decorative details.

Commercial spaces have a slightly different calculation. Restaurant tables, café chairs, and poolside seating may be used every day, so covering after closing can be more practical than moving everything inside. If a venue closes for the off-season, indoor storage usually gives better protection than leaving furniture outside under covers for months.

Pieces with cushions should generally have those cushions removed and stored separately. Even when the frame handles outdoor conditions well, fabric holds water, mildew, and odors if it stays damp. Outdoor-resin-furniture is a US online retailer offering Nardi and other resin outdoor furniture for patios, dining areas, pools, gardens, and commercial spaces, so the focus here is on resin pieces that are commonly used in those settings.

Stacking can also change the storage decision. Stackable chairs are convenient because they take less space, but they should be dry before they are stacked. Water trapped between seats can lead to moisture buildup, and grit caught between frames can scuff surfaces when chairs are pulled apart. If stacked furniture stays outside, covers need to shed rain without pressing water into the stack.

Weather signals that call for action

Some conditions are easy to judge. If a storm is forecast with high wind, loose furniture should be secured or brought inside. Light pieces can move, tip, or become awkward obstacles when wind picks up. If hail is likely, indoor storage offers far more protection than any cover. If temperatures are expected to fall below freezing for an extended period, moving furniture inside is a sensible precaution, particularly for pieces with moving parts or mixed materials.



Slow changes matter too. Watch for seats that stay wet after rain, water collecting in legs or bases, and marks that appear after leaves sit on a tabletop. These signs point to a storage spot that holds moisture. A small change in placement can help: move furniture off grass, away from downspouts, and out from under trees that drip long after the rain stops.

UV exposure deserves attention even when rain is not an issue. A table that sits in full sun may stay dry but still look weathered over time. Covers or shade can help during long hot periods, especially for pieces in bright colors. If a patio gets strong sun for most of the day, rotating chairs and tables now and then can keep wear more even.

Prepare furniture before it rests

Cleaning before storage or covering prevents dirt from sitting against the surface for months. Use mild soap, water, and a soft brush for general grime, then rinse and let everything dry fully. Pay attention to feet, slats, joints, and the underside of seats. These are the areas most likely to hold sand or organic debris.

A quick inspection at the same time can prevent small problems from becoming larger ones. Check that feet are intact, chair bases sit evenly, and any replaceable components are still in place. Where pieces include replacement parts, keeping spares in a dry place can make later repairs simpler. If something is cracked, warped, or unstable, avoid using it until it has been assessed or repaired.

Drying time is easy to underestimate. A chair can feel dry on top while water remains in a hollow leg or under a seat lip. Give furniture enough time in a ventilated spot before stacking, covering, or storing it. This matters most before winter storage, because trapped moisture has nowhere to go in a cool, enclosed space.

How long is long enough to protect?

There is no single cutoff that suits every patio. A few rainy days are usually not a reason to rush. Several weeks of wet weather, heavy pollen, leaf fall, or unused space are good reasons to cover or store. If the forecast points to a hard freeze, strong wind, hail, or a long cold spell, storage indoors is the more cautious choice.



Think of protection as a response to exposure and inactivity. Furniture that is used and wiped regularly can tolerate more outdoor time. Furniture that sits untouched needs help, because dirt and moisture have time to settle. With resin pieces, the basic routine is straightforward: clean gently, dry completely, cover for short idle stretches, and move inside when the season or weather turns harsh.

Outdoor-resin-furniture fits into this wider approach to caring for patios, dining areas, pools, gardens, and commercial spaces. A little attention before a quiet period keeps furniture ready for the next stretch of use and reduces the work needed to bring it back to a clean, comfortable condition.