



# Outdoor Patio Furniture

## Replace or Restore?

by Joe Ferris

**W**henever outdoor patio furniture becomes worn or outdated looking, people usually assume that they have one option, which is to buy new furniture. Many people are not aware that restoring their existing patio furniture is not only possible, but it also offers many benefits including saving money! If your existing furniture is in good structural condition, it can be refinished to a like-new condition. One great reason to keep your current patio furniture is because purchasing new furniture of the same quality is much more expensive than simply refinishing. By refinishing your current chairs, lounges, and tables, you are able to keep your current outdoor patio furniture, save lots of money, and customize your patio furniture with a large selection of fabric and color choices. This allows the customer to customize their restoration to fit with their existing décor to create an overall coordinated look. The flexibility and performance of powder coating makes it a great choice for any metal restoration project. The following is a description of the methods used in the powder coating process.

What is powder coating? Powder coating is an advanced method of applying a decorative and protective finish to a wide range of materials

and products that are used by various industries and consumers. The powder used for the process is a mixture of finely ground particles of pigment (color) and resin (protective finish), which is sprayed onto the surface to be coated. The materials to be coated are electronically grounded to attract the charged powder particles that adhere to the surface. After being heated in a curing oven, the powder fuses into a durable and protective coating. The result is a uniform, high-quality, attractive finish. Powder coating is the fastest growing finishing technology in North America, providing numerous industrial applications for all forms of materials and products. One such product that is a perfect choice for powder coating is outdoor patio furniture.

The restoration process involves completely stripping off the old, dull finish by sandblasting or chemically removing it. The metal surface is then pre-treated with a five-stage chemical pretreatment process. This properly prepares the patio furniture for the powder coating application. The powder is sprayed onto the metal surface of the furniture that is then baked in an industrial oven to cure the paint to a beautiful, long-lasting final finish. For highly corrosive environments, such as near the ocean, an additional primer coating is recommended for an extra layer of protection. Once the painting process is completed, the new straps or sling materials are installed along with any protective foot glides to protect flooring. As you can see from before and after photos,

the complete restoration process—involving sandblasting, chemical pre-treatment of the base metal, and applying a durable baked-on powder coat finish—can be quite amazing.

Powder coating finishes are available in many colors and textures that are perfect for outdoor patio furniture applications. Since the finish is a baked-on process, powder coated finishes are typically more durable than a wet paint application and are chip and scratch resistant. Being that patio furniture is outside and exposed to the sun and other weather elements, powder-coated finishes are by far the best selection. Below are just a few benefits of using powder coating for the finishing process of your patio furniture restoration:

- Custom color options—high/low gloss, metallic, textured, and clear finishes
- Texture selection—smooth, matte, and rough textures to hide surface imperfections
- Durability—extends product life by providing excellent resistance to corrosion, rust, and fading
- Environmentally friendly—emits no VOCs and eliminates recycling
- Superior protection—compared to standard paint finishes
- Saves money and time—no shipping, disposal, or replacement costs of your old furniture

Associations with old and worn patio furniture should consider a powder coating restoration process instead of taking on the greater expense of furniture replacement.

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