# Antique Wood Restoration

This playbook outlines the steps required to restore and refinish antique wooden furniture. The goal is to preserve the piece's historical character while enhancing its appearance and durability.

### Step 1: Inspection

Carefully examine the antique wood furniture to assess the extent of damage, identify any missing parts, and determine the type of wood and existing finish. This will inform the restoration approach.

### Step 2: Cleaning

Clean the wood surface with a gentle cleaner appropriate for antique furniture to remove dirt and grime. Do not use harsh chemicals that can damage the wood.

### Step 3: Repairs

Perform necessary repairs, such as fixing loose joints, replacing missing parts, or filling in cracks and imperfections. Use materials that match the original as closely as possible.

### Step 4: Stripping

If the existing finish is damaged beyond repair, carefully strip it away using a chemical stripper designed for antique furniture. Take care to avoid damaging the wood beneath.

### Step 5: Sanding

Sand the surface lightly with fine-grit sandpaper to smooth out the wood without removing historical marks that contribute to its character.

### Step 6: Staining

If desired, apply a stain to the wood to enhance its color and grain. Choose a stain that complements the era and style of the furniture.

### Step 7: Finishing

Apply a finish to protect the wood and give it a desired sheen. Options include wax, shellac, varnish, or oil, depending on the piece's original finish and intended use.

### Step 8: Polishing

Finally, polish the furniture with a soft cloth and appropriate wood polish to enhance its shine and provide additional protection.

## General Notes

### Safety

Wear gloves, masks, and protective eyewear when using chemical strippers and finishes to protect your skin, lungs, and eyes.

### Ventilation

Work in a well-ventilated area or outdoors when applying chemicals to prevent inhalation of fumes.

### Historic Preservation

Always prioritize conserving the furniture’s historical integrity over making it look new. Consult historical references or experts if necessary.