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Welcome to the homeowner's essential guide to choosing the right restoration professional and getting heirloom-quality results... but first, let's introduce you to Ricks Refinishing.

Ricks Refinishing knows a little about furniture restoration and maintaining the value of family heirlooms. For over 50 years, Rick's masterful craftsmanship has preserved the legacy of cherished furniture while creating new wooden masterpieces built to last generations. His attention for detail and deep knowledge of traditional woodworking techniques ensures every piece receives the perfect blend of skilled artistry and time-tested craftsmanship.

From breathing new life into treasured antiques to crafting custom furniture for a client's unique space, Rick transforms vision into reality.

Now, let's consider your furniture's story.

Is Your Furniture Worth Restoring?

5-MINUTE ASSESSMENT

Before you invest in professional restoration, use this quick evaluation to determine if your piece is a good candidate.



1. Green Light Indicators (Restore It!)

- Solid wood construction Heavy, substantial feel with visible wood grain throughout
- Quality joinery Look for dovetail joints, mortise and tenon connections, or hand-cut details
- Sentimental significance Family heirlooms, pieces with personal history, or meaningful purchases
- Antique or vintage charm Unique wood species, hand-carved details, or mid-century craftsmanship
- Quality veneer work Fine furniture has used veneer for centuries

2. Proceed with Caution

- Particle board or MDF core May not hold up to refinishing process
- Severe structural damage Multiple broken joints, missing sections, or frame weakness
- Modern mass-production pieces Often costs more to restore than replace

3. Skip the Restoration

- Laminate or plastic surfaces Cannot be refinished
- Severely water-damaged pressboard Swelling and delamination can't be reversed
- Missing major components Unless you have strong sentimental attachment

The Truth About Veneer

(And Why It's Often Worth Restoring)

Common Misconception:

"It's just veneer, so it's cheap."

The Reality:

Veneer has been used since ancient Egypt and became a hallmark of fine European furniture in the 17th and 18th centuries. Master craftsmen used thin layers of exotic woods over solid cores to create stunning patterns impossible with solid wood alone.









How to Tell Quality Veneer from Cheap Veneer:

- Thickness Quality veneer is typically 1/16" or thicker
- Grain pattern Look for book-matched or quarter-sawn patterns
- Core material Quality pieces use solid wood or highgrade plywood cores
- Age Pre-1960s veneered furniture often represents excellent craftsmanship

The Bottom Line:

Many veneered pieces can be beautifully restored when handled by an experienced professional who understands the material and understands the value to you, the client.

What Makes Sense?

THE OPTIONS

The Investment Perspective

Restoration comparison

- Professional restoration of a solid walnut dining set: \$800-1,500
- Expected additional lifespan: 50+ years
- Cost per year: \$16-30

New comparison:

- New comparable dining set: \$1,200-3,000
- Expected lifespan (mass-produced): 10-15 years
- Cost per year: \$80-300





The Craftsmanship Factor

Antique and quality vintage furniture was built with:

- Hand-selected materials
- Time-intensive joinery techniques
- Attention to detail not found in modern production
- Wood species and cuts no longer readily available

The Customization Advantage

Professional restoration allows for:

- Custom stain matching to your existing décor
- Repairs that strengthen beyond original construction
- Modifications for modern use while preserving character



HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT PROFESSIONAL





ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS TO ASK ANY RESTORER

About Their Process:

- 1. "Can you walk me through your typical restoration process?"
- 2. "Who will actually be working on my furniture?" (Avoid shops that subcontract)
- 3. "What happens if you discover unexpected damage during the process?"
- 4. "How do you handle finish matching and custom stain work?"

About Their Experience:

- 1."Can you show me before/after photos of similar pieces?"
- 2."How do you approach antique pieces differently than modern furniture?"
- 3. "What's the most challenging restoration you've completed recently?"

About Timeline and Pricing:

- 1."What's a realistic timeline for my project?"
- 2. "How do you handle pricing if additional work is needed?"
- 3. "What warranty or guarantee do you provide on your work?"

WHAT ELSE SHOULD YOU EVALUATE?





ATTRIBUTES AND CONSIDERATIONS

Red Flags to Avoid

- Vague or evasive answers about their process or experience
- No portfolio of similar work to show you
- Pressure tactics or "limited time" offers
- Unrealistic timelines (quality restoration takes time)
- Reluctance to discuss potential complications or additional costs
- Quotes significantly lower than others (often indicates shortcuts or hidden costs)

Green Flags to Look For

- An evaluatioin process including photos and written assessment
- Transparent pricing with clear explanations of what's included
- Professional workspace that's organized and well-equipped
- Multiple positive reviews from recent customers
- Willingness to explain their techniques and material choices
- References available from previous customers
- Clear communication about timeline and process

Rick's Refinishing

THE DIFFERENCE

ENGINEERING MEETS ARTISTRY

Rick brings a unique combination of 50+ years of woodworking experience and a mechanical engineering background.

This unique combination offers:

- Problem-solving approach to complex restoration challenges
- Precision techniques that ensure lasting results
- Custom solutions when standard approaches won't work





WHAT SETS RICK APART

Rick brings years of experience and provides each of his clients:

- Personal attention Rick personally handles every consultation and restoration
- Local expertise Deep understanding of Texas climate effects on wood furniture
- Honest evaluation We'll tell you if a piece isn't worth restoring
- Custom matching —
 Specializes in matching existing furniture sets and home décor
- Engineering precision Structural repairs that improve upon original construction

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Rick's Refinishing

PROCESS & CARE

THE PROCESS AT RICKS

Step 1: Photo Consultation (Free)

- Email photos of your piece from multiple angles
- Include close-ups of any damage or problem areas
- Receive initial assessment and rough timeline

Step 2: In-Person Evaluation

- Detailed inspection of construction and condition
- Discussion of your goals and usage needs
- Consideration of your home's lighting and existing décor
- Transparent written quote with timeline

Step 3: Custom Restoration Plan

- Detailed work plan tailored to your piece
- Material selection and finish options
- Clear timeline with milestone updates

Step 4: Expert Restoration

- Rick personally handles all work
- Regular progress updates with photos
- Careful attention to historical accuracy and your preferences

Step 5: Final Delivery & Care

- In-home delivery and placement
- Detailed care instructions for long-term preservation
- Warranty information and ongoing support



CARE TIPS: DAILY CARE

- Use coasters & placemats to prevent water rings and heat damage
- Dust regularly with a soft, dry cloth following the wood grain
- Avoid placing furniture in direct sunlight or near heating vents

CARE TIPS: SEASONAL MAINTENANCE

- Apply quality furniture wax or oil 2-3 times per year
- Monitor for changes in humidity that can cause cracking or warping
- Address small scratches or dings before they become major problems

RICKS SECRET TIPS

- For stubborn water rings: Try a hair dryer on low heat for 30 seconds
- For minor scratches: A little walnut meat rubbed into the scratch can work wonders
- For sticky drawers: A bar of soap rubbed on the drawer slides provides smooth operation

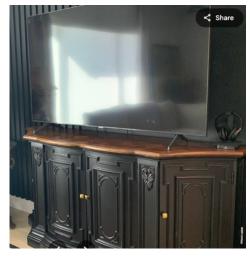
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CLIENT REVIEWS



★★★★★ 7 months ago

Rick and his team were a pleasure to deal with. Very professional, honest, on time and their work is superb. I can't tell you how happy I am with the whole experience. It's odd and refreshing to deal with such a great company. I highly recommend Ricks Refinishing





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★★★★★ 8 months ago

Rick is a phenomenal craftsman. He refinished the top of my Grandmothers 104 year old dinning table that I tried to remove heat stains by myself. I made the table top worse. Rick was so quick to respond to my desperate call and was able to bring back the beauty of this cherished piece of furniture. I am forever grateful and strongly would recommend using his services. Thank you Rick



★★★★★ 11 months ago

Rick is an incredible craftsman and carpenter! He repaired a family heirloom table for us. Several other repairmen said it was unsalvageable. Rick not only salvaged it but made it better than ever! Highly recommended, 5 stars.







★★★★★ 2 months ago

Rick did an amazing job reupholstering my dining room chairs. He also gave me wonderful tips on how to take care of my old dining table. Rick was very kind and very attentive to my concerns. Thank you, Rick! It was a joy to work with you!

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Why name this guide "Saved by the Grain"?

This title reflects both my craft and calling. While this guide focuses on woodworking techniques, it's also shaped by my faith in Jesus Christ, the Master Carpenter. His sacrifice on a wooden cross transformed my life and continues to influence how I approach my work. There's something profound about following a Savior who understood wood and craftsmanship. Jesus lived with purpose and integrity—qualities I bring to every project and client relationship. My faith shapes my professional standards: excellence, honesty, and respect. I look forward to working with you.



Rick's Refinishing: Where engineering precision meets artisan craftsmanship. Limited capacity ensures every piece receives the attention it deserves.



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