

RICKS

REFINISHING

Your furniture has a story. Is it worth restoring?

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

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

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

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

Check out our “**Saved by the Grain - How to Choose the Right Professional**” to learn about the essential questions to ask any antique restoration expert.



Should every antique be restored?

Questions to Ask Before Restoring Your Antique Furniture

Look at the emotional, structural, historical, financial, and aesthetic considerations.

1. What makes this piece worth saving?

Is it a family heirloom, a unique example of craftsmanship, or a piece with sentimental value? The reason for restoring furniture isn't always financial.

2. Is the furniture structurally sound?

Loose joints, damaged veneer, cracks, and missing components can often be repaired. Understanding the extent of the damage helps determine whether restoration is practical.

3. Will restoration affect its antique value?

An original finish, maker's mark, or distinctive patina may contribute to a piece's historical and monetary value. Before refinishing, determine whether preservation is the best choice.

4. What is my budget compared to the value of the piece?

Professional restoration requires time, craftsmanship, and specialized materials. Consider both the cost of restoration and the personal or financial value of keeping the piece.

5. What do I want the finished piece to look like?

Are you hoping to preserve its original character, repair damage, or update its appearance? Your goals will help determine the most appropriate approach.

Still unsure? Rick can evaluate your furniture and help you understand your options before you commit to restoration.



About Ricks Refinishing

Engineering Meets Artistry

More Than 50 Years of Woodworking Experience

Antique furniture restoration requires more than the ability to repair wood. It takes an understanding of craftsmanship, construction, and the character that makes each piece unique.

With more than 50 years of woodworking experience and a background in mechanical engineering, Rick brings technical precision and hands-on craftsmanship to furniture restoration.

Every piece has its own history, challenges, and possibilities. Rick personally evaluates each project, offering honest guidance on whether restoration, repair, or preservation is the right approach.

From structural repairs and finish matching to restoring treasured family heirlooms, the goal is simple: **preserve what makes your furniture worth keeping.**