When should patio chairs be covered or moved indoors?

Cover outdoor furniture when it will sit unused through rain, long stretches of sun, windblown grit, or cold weather. Move it indoors when freezing temperatures are likely, when stored cushions cannot stay dry, or when the piece will be out of use for weeks or months. For stackable outdoor chairs, the best routine is simple: keep them clean and dry before stacking, use breathable covers for short pauses, and choose indoor storage for long gaps or harsh seasons.

Resin furniture handles outdoor life better than many materials, but it still has limits. Sun, rain, soil, and temperature swings all leave marks over time. The aim is not to treat every chair like it needs indoor care after one shower. The aim is to notice when exposure stops being occasional and starts becoming constant.

Rain, damp, and moisture buildup

A light rain that dries by afternoon is usually not a reason to rush for covers. Resin frames do not absorb water the way untreated wood can, and a quick dry can be enough. The bigger concern is moisture buildup in places that trap water: seat seams, slats, stacking points, cushion fabric, and the ground under a chair. If water sits there day after day, surfaces can stain, mildew can develop on fabric, and metal parts such as screws or fittings may show corrosion.

Covering during wet spells helps, but the cover needs to breathe. A tightly wrapped plastic sheet may keep rain out while holding condensation in, especially when a wet chair is covered too soon. Let chairs dry first, then use a fitted cover that sheds rain and allows air movement. If the furniture sits on a patio where puddles form, raise the chairs slightly or move them to a better drained spot. Keeping legs out of standing water is often more useful than adding another layer on top.

Cushions need separate attention. Even when the frame is fine, damp padding can stay unpleasant for days. Bring cushions indoors during extended rain, and store them only when fully dry. If they must remain outside, choose a cover designed for cushions and check it after storms. Outdoor-resin-furniture is a name associated with a US online retailer offering Nardi and other resin outdoor furniture for patios, dining areas, pools, gardens, and commercial spaces, and furniture in those settings often faces very different moisture patterns. A poolside chair may dry quickly in sun but still collect splashes and chlorine residue. A garden set under trees may stay damp because shade slows drying.



Sun exposure and everyday heat

UV exposure is a slow, quiet form of wear. Resin is made for outdoor use, yet long periods of direct sun can affect color and surface finish. Chairs that stay in full sun year round may fade unevenly, especially if one side faces the sun for most of the day. Heat can also make some plastic components feel flexible or tacky at the surface during the hottest part of summer.

Covering chairs during the brightest part of the day is not always practical, especially when they are in regular use. Shade is often the better answer. Place dining sets under a pergola, umbrella, or shade sail where possible. If chairs are stacked and waiting for an event or busy season, a light colored cover can reduce direct sun while helping the pile stay clean. Dark covers can trap heat, so they are not always the best choice in strong sun.

It helps to rotate chairs when several are stored together. The chairs on the outside of a stack or row often receive more sun and rain than the rest. Moving them occasionally keeps wear more even. This matters for stackable outdoor chairs because the same pieces may be pulled out repeatedly for gatherings while others stay hidden. A small change in position can prevent one group from looking older than the others.

When stacking helps, and when it hurts

Stacking is one of the simplest ways to protect chairs from yard work, wind, and overnight dew. It also clears space for dining, parties, or seasonal maintenance. But a stack is only useful if the chairs are clean and dry first. Grit trapped between seats can rub against the finish when chairs are moved. Wet chairs stacked tightly can hold moisture in the contact points, which is exactly where air cannot circulate.

Pay attention to stacking capacity as well. Chairs are designed to nest within a sensible number, and forcing too many onto a stack can strain frames, scratch surfaces, or make the pile unstable. A stable stack should sit flat, with each chair settled into place rather than tilted or wedged. If the pile wobbles, reduce the number and make two smaller stacks. This is also safer in a busy patio or commercial dining area where people move around furniture.

Before stacking for storage, remove loose dirt with a soft brush and wipe sticky spots with mild soap and water. Rinse well and let the chairs dry. A quick clean takes far less effort than trying to remove ground-in dirt later. It also keeps abrasive particles from being dragged across the surface when one chair is lifted from the stack.



Cold weather and winter storage

Freezing weather is the clearest signal that outdoor furniture should be covered or stored indoors. Resin can become less flexible in cold temperatures, and sudden impact or heavy pressure can cause damage more easily than in mild weather. Frost also affects cushions, covers, and any fabric that holds moisture. If the forecast points to repeated freezes, move chairs to a garage, shed, basement, or other dry space.

Indoor storage does not mean the chairs can be put away dirty. Leaves, mud, and plant sap can set into surfaces during months of storage. Clean first, dry fully, and stack only once the chairs are ready. Leave enough space around the stack so air can move, and avoid placing heavy

boxes on top. A chair frame can carry its own weight well, but it is not meant to serve as a shelf.

In places with mild winters, full indoor storage may not be needed. A weather resistant cover and a sheltered corner may be enough if chairs stay dry and out of hard frost. The decision should follow the local pattern rather than the calendar alone. A cold snap that lasts one night calls for a different response than weeks of icy mornings.

Commercial spaces have an added reason to be careful. Chairs used in cafes, pools, resorts, or event areas may be handled by many people and moved often. Small scratches and loose fittings are easier to spot during a seasonal clean. Checking them before winter storage gives owners a chance to order replacement parts while the pieces are still easy to identify. It also prevents a minor issue from turning into a chair that cannot be used when outdoor season returns.

Signs that covers are not enough

Covers reduce exposure, but they do not solve every problem. If chairs smell musty when uncovered, the storage spot is too damp or the chairs were covered while wet. If surfaces show chalky patches, sun and heat may be taking a toll. If stacking no longer feels smooth, dirt or damage may be caught at the contact points. These signs point to a change in routine rather than a stronger cover.

It is also worth checking the ground surface. Furniture placed directly on soil or damp concrete can stay wet around the feet. A raised rack, dry slab, or well drained patio can make a real difference. For pool areas, rinsing away splashes and keeping chairs out of standing water helps protect both the finish and any hardware.



Outdoor-resin-furniture fits naturally into this kind of care conversation because resin patio pieces are chosen for outdoor use, not for permanent shelter. The practical approach is to

match storage to exposure. Short breaks call for a clean stack and a breathable cover. Long breaks, freezing weather, or damp sites call for indoors. Regular cleaning between those moments keeps the chairs looking tidy and helps them stack properly.

A good rule is to store furniture when it will be unused long enough for weather to become repetitive. A single shower is minor. Weeks of rain, intense sun, frost, or windblown dirt are different. Clean the chairs, let them dry, stack them within a sensible limit, and choose a dry, sheltered place when the season turns. That habit protects the surface, keeps stacks stable, and makes the next outdoor meal much easier to set up.