

Tips for Evaluating the Quality of Furniture

Good Construction Techniques:

Joints

- Mortise-and-tenon joints
- Dovetail joints
- Knapp Joints (AKA pin and cove)
- Tongue-and-groove edge joints (the thin, long edge of boards)
- Reinforcing corner blocks
- Dowels

Drawers

- Dust covers
- Center drawer guides have wood or metal rails
- Drawer bottoms float in groove
- Tri-ply plywood (minimum) used for bottoms, sides and backs if hardwood not used.

Frames

- Mitering
- Frames glued and screwed
- Reinforcing corner blocks

Exterior

- Good quality hardwood
- Solid wood applied trim
- Hand painted decorations
- Well fitting backs

Lower Quality Construction Techniques:

Joints

- Right angles joined by adhesive or glue only
- No corner blocks

Drawers:

- Soft woods, particle board, faux wood or 2-ply plywood used for drawers backs, bottoms and sides
- No center drawer guides
- Drawers do not glide smoothly
- Drawers are not square to the frame
- Nails, staples or exposed glue

Exterior:

- Soft wood (can dent with fingernail)
- Pieced woods (looks like butcherblock)
- Laminates
- Excess knots or cracks in the wood
- Stamped hardware
- MDF (medium density fiberboard) or

particleboard, for unexposed portions of the piece may be veneered with real woods

Naturally Green in the color of your choice