

The Wee Ferm Guide to

Caring for your Chainsaw Art

Chainsaw carvings are traditionally made of green wood this means the timber used is a raw unseasoned piece of tree. The reason for this is that it takes around 1 year per inch to season a solid round log, whilst timber over 10 inches across may never fully dry out. The wood used to make furniture found in homes is cut into small sections and kiln dried then glued back together to make tables, chairs etc. to apply this process to chainsaw carvings would be extremely expensive.

Due to the natural state of the timber small hairline cracks and splits may appear over time. This effect will be sped up and made much worse if the carvings are not kept correctly. The best place to keep your chainsaw sculpture is in a shady spot in the garden away from direct sunlight. It's not necessary to keep your sculpture dry as the oils it's been treated with will protect it from rot, in fact natural atmospheric moisture will benefit the timber and help prevent it drying out too quickly. Ideally place your carving on a free draining surface such as gravel, or plant pot stands work well on paving slabs. Most cracks will naturally close up again during the winter months. If you really don't like the appearance of any cracks you can fill them in by rubbing a walnut (the bit you can eat) over the crack and smoothing it in with your fingertip. The natural oils in the walnut help condition the wood and reduce the amount of moisture that can escape. A coat of oil over the walnut will also help seal it in and discourage blue tits from picking it all out again! Over time the wood will settle and no more cracks will appear.

I strongly advise against keeping any chainsaw carvings indoors. A centrally heated house or fireplace is guaranteed to cause splitting which can be severe

To keep your carving looking as good as new you just need to rub it down with a stiff brush once a year to remove any dust and debris then apply a coat of wood preserver as directed on the tin. If left the carving will eventually weather to a silvery grey colour..

If cared for correctly your carved wooden chainsaw sculpture will last for many, many years.

