



## ***Getting to Know Your Bamboo***

When it comes to taking care of your natural bamboo, it is quite easy as long as you know what to do.

The first thing to know is that it is normal for your bamboo to change color and to crack or “check” over time due to varying outdoor conditions. When placed in direct sunlight or in dry climates, these conditions worsen. Usually bamboo canes that are larger in diameter have a higher risk of checking, or cracking, over time. For instance, a 2” bamboo cane might check more than 5/8”. To prevent this, slowly get your bamboo used to the outdoor weather before permanently placing it outdoors.

You may also want to apply a UV protective outdoor varnish to your bamboo every spring before the summer heat kicks in, to help prevent weather damage. This same varnish should be applied in wet-climate areas before rainy seasons to keep out moisture. During winter seasons, a harmless black mold may grow on the bamboo; this mold can be wiped off easily with a water-based bleach solution, which will also prevent the mold from growing back.

Over time, your bamboo will start to turn a silver-gray color and you may choose to apply another coat of varnish after it ages. If you do not apply the varnish, the bamboo will simply continue to darken in color, which is preferable to some people.

If you take care of your bamboo properly, it will not only last a long time, but look great too.