



MENNONITE FURNITURE STUDIOS
AMERICAN HEIRLOOM FURNITURE



MENNONITE & AMISH
CRAFTSMEN

ONLY THE BEST ENDURES

SOLID HARDWOOD
FURNITURE

MENNONITE FURNITURE STUDIOS HARDWOOD CHAIR GUIDE



DINING CHAIRS

YOUR GUIDE TO BUYING QUALITY DINING CHAIRS:

- What To Insist On
- What To Avoid
- [Heirloom Quality Rocking Chair Catalog Online](#)

WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN BUYING A QUALITY DINING CHAIR

***Do You appreciate beautiful hardwood furniture built by craftsmen to last for generations?
Are You seeking just the right rocking chair or glider-rocker to delight Your family?
If so, read this Furniture Buyers Guide To Heirloom Quality Dining Chairs***



*Amish 'Classic' Queen Anne Westminster Round Top'd Chairs (Windsor Chair Based)
by American Heirloom Furniture*

The Discriminating Furniture Buyers Guide To Heirloom Quality Dining Chairs

Understand which features You should demand and which ones You should avoid in order to get the best value from Your next quality furniture purchase.

- What To Insist On:**
Find out exactly what to look for in a true “Heirloom Quality Chair” that will beautifully accommodate Your needs, and be easily maintained to last for generations.
- What To Avoid:**
Find out how to look for, identify, and avoid common chair manufacturers cost-cutting steps that will simply not bear the burden of normal use in Your home.



Our Dining Chair Heritage

Furnishing styles and tastes have continuously evolved, leading to the wide array of hardwood dining chair types and styles, as well as benches and stools, that we have inherited today. In early Colonial homes, and also in the later homes of pioneering times, stools were in fact more common than were chairs. The term “Father’s Chair” may hearken back to the time when ‘Father’s chair’ was the only chair in the house! Find out more about the many different styles of chairs, benches, and stools available to us from our rich heritage of North American furniture craftsmen.



*‘Contemporary’ New England Windsor Chairs & ‘Heritage’ Birdcage Windsor Chairs
Windsor Chairs by American Heirloom Furniture*

Stylish ‘Square Frame’ Chairs & Comfortable ‘Windsor Chairs’

The traditional **‘Square Frame’ Chair** form can be seen in our collection of fine *Mission Style Chairs*, and *Shaker Style Chairs*. Square Frame chairs are constructed with 2 long posts at the back, which form the back legs and the back rest, and 2 short posts at the front which form the front legs. The seat is then joined onto these legs, which are then braced below the seat. Many square frame chair models are available in 2 model variants that have either wooden seats or upholstered seats.

Windsor Style Seating, with splayed legs and tilted back rests driven into the seat, represents a high point in the landscape of chair design & construction. The original English Windsor Chair developed in the 17th Century near Windsor, England, and has traveled extensively throughout the centuries, first coming to America in about 1726. After this time, the English Windsor Chairs differed from their North American counterparts in various details, as several stylistic and structural adaptations evolved on each side of the Atlantic. This is why you’ll find so many different types of Windsor Chair, as well as matching Windsor Benches and matching Windsor Stools for many of these chairs, in our catalog.

In General, Square Frame Chairs Are Stylish, But Windsor Chairs Are More Comfortable!



Amish 'Classic' Mission-Style Woodland Chairs & Amish 'Heritage' Shaker-Style Ladder Back Chairs Square Frame Chairs by American Heirloom Furniture

Things To Know When Buying Your Chairs

With modern glues and furniture finishes, there is absolutely no reason why modern seating should not be better than the very best chairs, benches or stools of the past. However, many chairs that you will find in your local furniture chain-store are mass produced to budget and are not built to last. Share some time to note with us some features of a superior chair, bench or stool:

Insist On This - What To Look For When Choosing A Quality Dining Chair

Furniture Quality And Value: A true "Heirloom Quality" chair, bench or stool is always a piece of furniture that is both beautiful and functional. Caringly crafted from selected solid hardwood, it will provide far superior value to any of the mass-produced chairs that You'll find in most furniture stores, and the majority of people are pleasantly surprised at just how affordable Heirloom Quality seating can be.



Amish 'Heritage' Colonial-Style Arrow-Back' Windsor Bench, Counter Stool & Dining Chairs Windsor Seating by American Heirloom Furniture (all available in a range of finishes)



Quality Chair Construction: Square Frame or Windsor, a true Heirloom Quality dining chair is judiciously designed and constructed, using time-tested engineering principles, carefully selected premium American hardwoods, and quality materials, to be both strong and durable. Look for leg frames that spread gracefully, for balance, style, and durability, and make sure that the legs are properly trimmed so that the chair sits flat on all 4 legs.

Investigate How Comfortable The Chair Will Be For You

Depending upon your personal preference, some dining chair models may come with wooden seats or with upholstered cushion seats. Additionally, some people prefer straight upright back rests and others prefer slanted backrests or ergonomically shaped back rests that wrap around. You must have good lower back support!

- **Wooden Seats** should be made of thick hardwood planks, edge glued, and generously dished to ensure your comfort.
- **Upholstered Seats** must feature cushions that are removable (and replaceable) for ease of cleaning or redecorating. As furniture manufacturers we provide a wide range of fabric colors and textures to assure availability of upholstery to suit almost any taste. Alternatively, You may provide Your own fabric to ensure a perfect match in Your home.
- **Arm Chairs** should feature well-supported broad, flat arm rests (we use 3 arm posts rather than 2 on Windsor chairs), that must be strong enough to take your full weight during ingress and egress.

With or without upholstery a properly designed dining chair should be supremely relaxing to sit in, and able to comfortably support Your body for hours at a time.

Look For Legacy Carpentry Techniques: Although most Colonial period chairs were originally made with soft pine seats (for ease of working), all of the chairs in our catalog use solid oak, cherry, or maple hardwood seats for added beauty and durability. Look underneath the seat, solid oak or cherry posts and spindles should pass entirely through the wooden seat frame and be secured in place with hickory wedges and quality adhesive, before being sanded flat and finished.

Ask About The Glues Used: Modern technology has allowed the development of tenacious adhesives that allow the wood to move naturally with the seasons while providing joints that are now stronger than the structure of the wood itself.

Look For A Tough Hardened Varnish: Ask about modern *catalyzed finishes* and clean-room coating techniques. These allow full development of color and luster that emphasize the natural beauty of the wood grain, yet allow full protection against water and spillage of common household chemicals. Today's heirloom quality chairs are far more durable than the antiques they are modeled on – contributing lasting beauty for future generations to enjoy with the minimum possible upkeep.

Mennonite Furniture Studios American Heirloom Furniture - Only The Best Endures!
Quality Dining Chair Catalog Online at www.Mennonite-Furniture-Studios.com

Mennonite Furniture Studios – Amish ‘Classic’ & Amish ‘Heritage’ Furniture Classifications



Amish ‘Classic’ Fan-Back Windsor Dining Chairs & Amish ‘Heritage’ Colonial Sheaf-Back Chairs by American Heirloom Furniture

Amish ‘Classic’ Furniture Piece

A 'Reproduction Antique', faithfully following a distinct and premier antique furniture masterpiece. **Mennonite Furniture Studios Amish 'Classic' Furniture** remains exactly true to the original furniture form and style, using the original joinery techniques.

Compared to the masterpiece, use of modern glues and finishes enhances quality, and selected components may deploy a minor increase in wood thickness in order to address a known weak point in the original design.

Mennonite Furniture Studios Amish 'Classic' furniture pieces are actually of higher quality, and are more durable and easily maintained, than the original antique masterpieces that they are modeled upon.

Amish Heritage' Furniture Piece

A Masterful Adaptation of a distinct and premier antique furniture masterpiece, with some alteration to increase both functionality and durability.

Compared to the original masterpiece, use of modern glues and finishes enhances quality. Variations in both joinery techniques and wood thickness enhance strength and durability. Adjustment of the original form and style improve functionality.

Mennonite Furniture Studios Amish 'Heritage' furniture pieces are actually of higher quality and more durable, requiring less maintenance and offering enhanced functionality compared to the original furniture masterpieces that they are modeled upon.

Mennonite Furniture Studios American Heirloom Furniture - Only The Best Endures!



Avoid This - Things To Reject When Choosing Your Dining Chair

A dining chair, bench, or even a stool should be built for hours of comfortable relaxation. Look for a comfortably contoured hardwood seat and reject any chair that looks pretty but will not be comfortable. Avoid any chair that flexes as you move in it due to loosely fitting joints.

Look Underneath The Seat: Is this furniture piece nicely finished underneath? If the bottom side is poorly finished, or otherwise ugly, this means that the manufacturer has “cut corners” to save money wherever possible. This is a sure sign that other chair components and / or the finish are also likely to be sub-standard, and this particular piece represents a poor “investment” that will degrade and become problematic in use.

Avoid Weak Arms: Chair Arms (when present) must be strongly supported. On Windsor chairs, look for 3 arm support posts on each side (rather than 2). As with back posts & spindles, side arm posts should penetrate right through the seat for maximum strength. On Square Frame Chairs make sure that the arms are well supported and that the chair does not ‘give’ or flex when you put your weight on them during ingress or egress. Avoid any chair which does not comply with these guidelines because you can be sure that costs will also have been cut in other places too.

Avoid Finishes That Are Not Guaranteed To Be Water Resistant: A quality finish will protect the natural beauty of Your chair for future generations to enjoy. A finish that cannot withstand water and common household chemicals is also likely to wear off easily with use.

Insist On Solid Hardwood Throughout: Beware of the terms “all wood”, “solid all wood”, and “veneers”. Avoid soft tropical woods and particleboard components that will split or crack when subjected to weight.

Mennonite Furniture Studios American Heirloom Furniture Heirloom Quality Seating Catalog:



The Quality Chairs of yesteryear were built to last by caring men who thoroughly understood their tools, materials and craft. Today our Mennonite & Amish furniture makers undergo a long apprenticeship to develop keen eyes and skilled hands, and these expert craftsmen are dedicated to unhurriedly building Your furniture the right way – offering exceptional value without compromise!

Mennonite Furniture Studios American Heirloom Furniture - Only The Best Endures!
 Heirloom Quality Dining Online at www.Mennonite-Furniture-Studios.com