

Early 19th century oak linen chest

£245



REF: 6703

Height: 53 cm (20.9")

Width: 76 cm (29.9")

Depth: 46 cm (18.1")

Description

An early 19th century oak linen chest with iron carrying handles and original Regency paper lining, circa 1820.

Linen chests, also called blanket or hope chests, have a long history dating back to medieval Europe. Originally, they were simple wooden boxes used to store household textiles, linens, and valuables. By the 17th and 18th centuries, they became more decorative, often crafted with intricate carvings, inlays, and metalwork, reflecting regional styles and social status.

Linen chests were essential for young women, who used them to store dowries and personal belongings. These chests combined practicality with artistry, symbolising domestic skill and heritage. Over time, they evolved into treasured heirlooms passed down through generations.