



**CARE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES
FOR LAMINATE & WOOD CABINETS AND THEIR SURFACES**

<i>Table of Contents</i>	<i>Page</i>
Laminate Surfaces	2
Wood Finishes	4
General Do's and Don'ts	5
Wire Storage Products	7
Glass Doors	7
Roller and Ball-Bearing Slide Systems	7
Heat-Producing Appliances	7
Loads and Weight Limits	7
New Cabinet Acclimation	8
Moisture Effects	9
UV Effects	10

LAMINATE SURFACES (such as Wilson Art)

Cleaning Tips

To clean the surface, use a damp cloth or sponge and a mild soap and detergent. Difficult stains such as coffee and tea can be removed using a mild household cleaner and baking soda; mixing to achieve a paste consistency. Use a stiff nylon bristle brush, scrubbing (approx. 15-20 strokes) the affected area. Do not scrub so as to mar (damage, scratch) the surface finish.

Stubborn stains that resist any of the above cleaning methods may require the use of undiluted household bleach or nail polish remover. Use a cotton ball saturated with bleach or nail polish remover (acetone), gently rub the stain for up to two minutes. Rinse thoroughly with warm water and wipe dry using a soft cloth. This step may be repeated if the stain appears to be going away and the color of the laminate has not been affected.

WARNING: Prolonged exposure of the laminate surface to bleach will cause discoloration. Always rinse laminate surface after cleaning! Failure to rinse after cleaning can cause damage; even if a small amount of cleaning solution remains on the surface. A dry residue may be invisible; however, moisture from cups or drinks can reactivate it, and result in permanently etched scars or stains over time.

Recommended Household Cleaners:

- * Colorox
- * Formula 409
- * Dawn
- * Glass Plus
- * Fantastik
- * Favor
- * Lysol Brand Disinfectant Basin/Tub / Tile Cleaner
- * Dow Bathroom Cleaner with Scrubbing Bubbles
- * Windex
- * Lestoil
- * Pledge
- * Grease Relief
- * Mr. Clean
- * TOP JOB

Note: Prolonged exposure can mar the surface.

Cautions:

Acidic or abrasive cleaners can damage laminate surfaces; do not use them. Drain cleaners containing lye will permanently damage the laminate surface. If you spill a drain cleaner, wipe it up immediately and rinse several times with water.

Hair, textile and food dyes can cause permanent stains. If dye should happen to spill, wipe it up immediately with dishwashing detergent or an all-purpose cleaner.

Wipe spills away promptly and rinse several times with water.

Rust removers contain harsh chemicals, which will quickly cause permanent damage. If a spill occurs, wipe off all residue immediately, wash thoroughly with soapy water and rinse several times.

Steel Wool and other abrasive pads will damage the laminate face. Do not use them for cleaning and don't store steel wool pads on your countertop; the metal can rust and leave stains.

Toilet bowl cleaners contain harsh chemicals that can cause permanent damage. If spills occur, wipe up immediately, wash surface with soapy water and rinse several times.

The cleaners listed below can cause damage to the surface of laminate:

Chemical Ingredient	Synonymous Names
Hydrochloric Acid	Muriatic Acid Hydrogen Chloride
Sulfuric Acid	Oleic Acid Oleum
Hydrofluoric Acid	Rust Remover
Phosphoric Acid	Rust Remover
Sodium Hydroxide	Caustic Soda Caustic Lye Soda Lye
Pumice (abrasive)	

Remember, sharp objects can damage the surface of laminate, marring its beauty and lowering wear and stain resistance. Although laminates are somewhat resistant to scratch and marring, the surface can be damaged, even under normal use.

Laminate may need occasional dusting depending on where it's used. To keep the surface beautiful, use a non-oily furniture spray. (Remember to clean the spray off several times a year to prevent build-up). Furniture polish can also help hide fine scratches in the surface.

WOOD FINISHES

Dusting

Dust cabinets frequently with a soft lint-free cloth. You can dampen the cloth slightly with water or spray-type dust remover.

Spills

Clean spills immediately. Use a clean cloth and mild soap if necessary. Wipe dry with a clean soft cloth.

Cleaning

There are a number of products available for your wood cleaning needs. We recommend Guardsman. Their products are available at many stores nationwide including Bed Bath & Beyond, Wal-Mart, and Ace Hardware. A more economical way to remove grease buildup from cabinets is to use Fantastik. Apply and remove quickly, then wash your cabinets with a mild soap. After washing, dry thoroughly and apply a silicone-free polish.

Polishing

We recommend that you wash and polish cabinets once or twice each year. Use a light coat of quality furniture polish.

Don't

Never use detergents, soap pads or steel wool on your cabinetry. These harsh abrasives will mar the wood finish. Additionally, we recommend that you avoid the use of paste wax and polishes that contain silicone; the wax buildup is difficult to remove and will leave a residue that attracts dust.

GENERAL

- Be sure to remove the doors and drawers of all cabinets adjacent to and above the oven during the cleaning cycle of self-cleaning appliances. The cleaning cycle generates heat that could affect the finish and surface of the cabinets.
- Be sure to clean up spills and any standing water (such as condensation from a glass or bowl) immediately. Pay special attention to the areas around your sink, range, dishwasher, toe spaces and baseboards. Use a blotting action rather than a wiping action.
- Be sure to apply cleaning products directly to the clean cloth you are using. Never apply directly to the surface of the area that you are cleaning.
- Be sure to lift objects – do not drag across the surface.
- Be sure to avoid extreme in room humidity. Too high or too low humidity can cause the wood to warp or the glue used in applying laminate or veneer surfacing to loosen.
- Be sure to avoid extreme changes in room temperature.
- Be sure to rotate accessories on furniture periodically so they do not sit in the same spot all the time.
- Be sure to use pads, cloth or felt to protect surfaces from plastics, rubber, hot dishes, beverages, bookends, flowerpots and vases.
- Be sure to use protective pads when writing with a ballpoint pen.
- Be sure to make minor repairs while they are still small.
- Be sure to treat your cabinetry as if it were furniture. The cabinets are constructed with the same laminates and wood as your furniture. They require the same care in order to reward you with long lasting beauty.
- Do Not apply excessive weight or pull down excessively on doors as this may cause them to split at the hinge area and sag.
- Do Not place more than 100 pounds of weight into any drawer as this may cause the bottom to sag or the drawer guides to work improperly. Also, the weight of what is stored in each drawer should be evenly distributed for the best durability.

- Do Not use a drawer as a step as this may cause the bottom of the drawer to sag or the guides to warp.
- Do Not use petroleum distilled polishes on the surface of your cabinetry, as they are often flammable and toxic, and they are seldom ever completely removed.
- Do Not use abrasive cleaner or an abrasive cloth on any painted surface as this will scratch, scar and dull the finish permanently.
- Do Not use concentrated detergents on your cabinetry. Harsh detergents, strong soap and self-polishing waxes could have a damaging effect on the finished surface.
- Do Not leave damp or wet cloths draped over cabinet doors. This moisture can cause permanent water damage to the area over time.
- Do Not wipe our cabinetry with a used dishcloth since it could contain traces of grease or detergents.
- Do Not place plastic or rubber objects on a wood finish – their ingredients react with those of the finish.
- Do Not place furniture in direct sunlight. Prolonged exposure to direct sunlight may cause a change in color.
- Do Not let water run off sink to countertops and sink cabinetry.
- Do Not expose the unbanded edges of cabinetry to excessive moisture. Over time, prolonged wetness can result in damage.

WIRE STORAGE PRODUCTS

Periodically clean with a soft damp cloth.

Don't. Never use detergents, soap pads, steel wool, or other harsh, abrasive material.

GLASS DOORS

You can use any commercial glass cleaner to clean the glass. While cleaning mounted glass, be careful not to damage the finish of the door and cabinet parts while cleaning.

Don't. Never spray glass cleaner directly onto glass or cabinet parts. Glass cleaner seeping into areas behind the mullions may discolor the wood. Instead, spray a small amount of cleaner onto a lint-free cloth or paper towel, then wipe the glass.

ROLLER AND BALL-BEARING SLIDE SYSTEMS

Periodically clean with a soft damp cloth. Ball-bearing slides are lubricated with grease from the manufacturer to ensure smooth quiet operation and long life. Avoid removal of this grease during cleaning.

HEAT-PRODUCING APPLIANCES

We recommend that you do not mount heat-producing appliances (such as coffeemakers and toaster ovens) beneath cabinets. Excess heat and moisture from these appliances can damage cabinets.

LOADS AND WEIGHT LIMITS

Properly installed cabinets can safely support an evenly distributed load of 15 pounds per square foot of shelf, tray and drawer space, up to a maximum of 50 pounds. Be sure that you load all cabinet bottoms, shelves, and trays evenly.

NEW CABINETRY

ACCLIMATION

We recommend that you allow your new cabinetry to acclimate itself to the environment of your home for 30 to 60 days. During this acclimation period, you may notice some shifting of doors that may make them appear to be warped or bowed. This is a normal occurrence as the wood in your cabinetry expands and contracts as it adjusts to its new environment.

Do not try to fix a door if it appears warped or bowed during this acclimation period. Wait until at least 60 days pass, as it may take this time period for your cabinetry to settle into its natural form and shape.

If for some reason your new cabinetry does not properly settle, please contact your builder, remodeler or dealer professional.

WOOD CHARACTERISTICS

Individual distinctions are part of the beauty of any wood product. These naturally occurring variations create a sophisticated charm that makes your cabinetry one of a kind.

Much like fine leather, glazed tile or even precious gemstones, each piece of wood has its own unique traits. The type of soil the tree was grown in, the weather, even the amount of moisture and sunlight have effects on graining and induce delicate color variations.

NATURAL AGING PROCESS

As with other natural materials, wood cabinetry will gradually darken or mellow in response to aging, light and UV exposure. Most likely, you'll never notice this subtle aging process unless, in a few years time, you compare your cabinets to brand new ones.

MOISTURE EFFECTS ON CABINETS AND COUNTERTOPS

AFFECTS OF MOISTURE IN WOOD

Any solid wood product will expand over time as moisture and climate conditions change.

Effects of moisture may include:

- Panel expansion
- Joint expansion or opening (especially on miter doors)
- Stile bowing
- Panel contraction (may result in “white line” if finished)
- Stile / rail expansion

Non-air conditioned homes, regardless of location, are very susceptible to expansion due to moisture.

Winter and vacation homes should maintain some form of climate control, even in off-season.

TIPS FOR AVOIDING MOISTURE-RELATED PROBLEMS

Certain species, primarily Hard Maple, have a tendency to expand more than others. For details, see chart below.

If expansion in doors occurs prior to installation on cabinet box, air conditioning will usually return doors to normal.

POTENTIAL WOOD MOVEMENT CHART

This chart indicates how much a 12” wide panel can change in size depending on moisture.

Species	Width in inches at 5% humidity	Width in inches at 14% humidity	Wood movement in inches caused by 9% swing in moisture
Red Oak	12	12.29	0.29
Hard Maple	12	12.27	0.27
Soft Maple	12	12.27	0.27
Cherry	12	12.23	0.23
Hickory	12	12.29	0.29

In general manufacturers produce laminate and wood cabinetry at a moisture content of 6% to 8%, depending on the season.

UV EFFECTS

Natural sunlight contains Ultra Violet (UV) light rays that may affect the appearance of your cabinets. Wood species and finishes have been test so that you may be able to determine the approximate effect that UV rays may have on the cabinetry in your home.

The tests used follow the American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) standards for quartz ultra violet light (QUV). The actual results in your home will vary depending on these three factors:

1. Exposure to light (for example, direct from the south, east or west or indirect from the north.
2. The portion of the cabinet that receives the light (top, base, etc.)
3. The wood itself. The finish does not change color, the wood itself will.

With varying exposure to UV rays, and over time color variations will occur.