

# Care and Maintenance

## Basic cleaning

Wipe with a dampened, lint-free cotton cloth and promptly wipe dry. For removal of oil, grease, or daily spills, you may use a solution of mild soap and water, then promptly dry with a soft, lint-free cotton cloth. Avoid using a dishcloth or sponge to clean cabinet surfaces as it may contain remnants of harsh detergents that can harm the finish. Do not use ammonia-based cleaners, soaps with dye, abrasive cleaners, or self-polishing waxes (especially those that contain silicone). We recommend the use of a quality cleaner or polish, such as Guardsman® branded products. Revitalizing oils not recommended.

## Humidity

Movement of the wood (expansion in humid conditions and contraction in dry air) is normal with wood cabinetry and not a defect. To reduce excessive movement, a properly controlled environment is necessary. In the summer months, this includes use of air conditioning at typical levels. In the winter months, humidification systems are recommended to correspond with the drying effect of heating systems and dry winter air.

## Wipe spills promptly

It is very important to keep the cabinet surfaces dry. Wipe up spills immediately using a dry cloth with a "blotting" motion, rather than wiping the spill from the cabinet surface. Pay special attention to areas where water is common, such as the sink and dishwasher, and do not allow water and detergents to dry on the cabinet surface.

## Avoid excessive moisture

This is one of the worst enemies of any finish. Avoid draping wet towels over cabinet doors. Do not attach towel racks to door interiors and do not place coffee or tea makers where the steam will directly impact cabinet surfaces. Immediately dry off any areas where water has spilled.

## Avoid excessive heat

Avoid placing cabinet appliances where the heat is directed onto cabinet surfaces. The stability of the wood and finish can be negatively impacted.

### Avoid abrasives

Never use scouring pads, steel wool, or powdered cleaners as these methods of cleaning may penetrate the surface, allowing food or moisture to enter and cause deterioration of the finish.

### Final thoughts

Wood products and their finish are only as good as the care they receive. Proper care such as we recommend will extend the life and beauty of your cabinetry. Remember, leaving water or other moisture on the cabinet surface for extended periods of time will harm the finish and will not be covered under any warranties.