

PROPER CARE & MAINTENANCE OF FINISHED WOOD

There is no such thing as "maintenance-free" anything. Gardens need weeding, spouses need date nights and kind words, and wood cabinets must be treated with specific, sensible care if their natural beauty is to last.

HOW TO CLEAN YOUR CABINETS

- Wipe down cabinets every few weeks with a damp, soft cloth using only warm water
- Always wipe in the direction of the wood grain
- Don't leave any moisture behind—wipe dry with a soft cloth

For stubborn grime or stains try:

- Add 2 drops of mild dishwasher soap to your water
- Try one tablespoon of vinegar to 16 ounces of water
- Rinse with water and thoroughly dry with a soft cloth

HOW TO CONDITION YOUR CABINETS

Use only lemon oil to condition your cabinets with a stained finish twice a year. No waxes. None.

HOW TO DAMAGE YOUR CABINETS

Now that we have your attention, here's a list of abrasive cleaners & chemicals you should **NEVER** use on your cabinetry. No paint or stain can withstand these harmful elements and no complaint that the paint or stain is faulty will gain sympathy from us or qualify for restoration under your limited warranty.

DO NOT USE:

- Any petroleum-based products
- Paint thinners
- Magic erasers (anything with a silicone base)
- Murphy's oil soap
- Strong detergents/soaps/Windex
- Nail polish removers
- Solvents (including organic)
- Bleaches
- Ammonia
- Plastic brushes, steel wool, or Scouring pads
- Waxes of any kind
- Power washers or belt sanders (are you still reading?)

WHAT ABOUT SPILLS & SPLASHES?

They matter. Wipe them up before they dry by blotting with a sponge or damp soft cloth. Unlike fine wine, they don't get better with age.

CLIMATE EXTREMES TO WATCH FOR

Outside of a plane crash in your kitchen, moisture is the single greatest source of cabinetry damage. Think of the Grand Canyon. That was done by water. Temperature extremes—too hot or cold, too dry or humid—are a close second for damage. Small children and pets are third. Adults with loose wrist jewelry, large rings, or artificial fingernails are fourth on the damage to wood surfaces list. We are not kidding.

Repeated exposure to a harsh environment can cause splitting, swelling, cupping, cracking, warping, and panel edge exposure. Again, cabinets repeatedly exposed to these conditions will not qualify under your limited warranty.

DO NOT:

- Drape dishtowels or other wet items over cabinet doors
- Regularly exceed higher than 80% or lower than 20% relative humidity



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UNWARRANTABLE CONDITIONS OF FINISHED WOOD

As a natural organic, wood is constantly reacting to its environment, be it temperature, moisture or sunlight. For this reason, those reactions cannot be warranted. This document lists the most common unwarrantable conditions you are likely to encounter along with the immutable characteristics of wood that must be considered.

WOOD IS ALIVE!

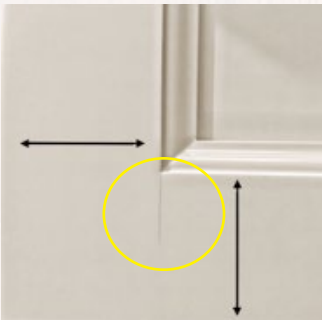
Even after you cut it down, mill it, cut it, assemble and finish it, wood is still a living breathing organic thing. Wood will respond to its environment—expanding, contracting, drinking in and expelling moisture—as it seeks to balance out everything within its environment.

PAINT IS NOT!

Paint, on the other hand, cannot move to the same degree that wood can. So, in the case of finished cabinets or interior doors that movement of the wood can show up in a variety of ways, none of which are warrantable.

HAIRLINE “FRAMING” CRACKS AT THE JOINTS

The four corners of any door will move in reaction to heat and moisture. This is natural. The arrows in the image indicate the direction the wood wants to expand based on the orientation of its grain (which is opposite of the direction of expansion shown by the arrows). What’s important to understand is the joint hasn’t failed.



OFF-SET JOINTS

Similar to framing cracks, joint offsets can occur where the top and bottom rails

expand beyond the ends of the vertical stiles. This usually happens during seasonal changes in moisture, such as winter, but will return to its original condition as the season passes. This is not considered a defect and is not covered by the warranty.

CEILING/CABINET JOINTS

Again, seasonal changes in temperature and moisture will cause not just cabinet doors to move, but your entire home to shift. Walls and ceiling trusses can and will move especially as harsher climates such as winter set in. It is not uncommon for a slight gap to appear between newly installed cabinets and the ceiling. This also should resolve itself over time, as the envelope of your home equalizes.



PANEL CONTRACTION

During dramatic seasonal moisture changes cabinet panel insets can contract or shrink, exposing the unfinished portion, giving the appearance that the door was not completely finished around the inside edges. As

winter passes into the spring, these lines will disappear as the wood expands back to its original proportion.

TELEGRAPHING

The appearance of wood characteristics, “telegraphing”, may occur when paint is applied to any wood species, but is especially noticeable in oak, pine and poplar. These characteristics, such as open grain, pinholes, knots and mineral streaks, may be visible through the paint. It can happen on doors, face frames, moldings and any decorative end panel or enhancement made of natural wood and should be considered when choosing finishes that feature paint as the base technique, including paint with glaze and vintage techniques.



END GRAIN & MINERAL STREAKS

End grain surfaces are softer in composition than other areas of the wood. As such, they absorb more stain and often appear darker. This is a natural reaction and potential variances cannot be prevented. In nature, mineral deposits may form in the wood as the tree extracts nutrients from the soil. Common in many wood types, these mineral deposits cause blackish-blue streaks in the grain. When a finish is applied to mineral streaks, it may appear lighter or darker than other areas of your cabinetry. Again, this is not a defect that is warrantable.



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