

Cabinet Care & Maintenance

Cleaning Instructions: Dust cabinets periodically using a soft lint-free cloth, — or a microfiber cloth for laminate and high gloss cabinetry.

REMOVING GRIME

A damp cotton cloth will remove most grime stains from cabinetry. For extra grime fighting strength, a mild solution of dishwashing liquid (not dish-washer products) mixed with fresh, clean, warm water will take care of dirt and grease. Mix ratio of 5% dishwashing liquid to 95% water for cleaning solution. After cleaning your stained or painted cabinets, wipe them down with a clean, damp cloth and be sure to dry any wet/damp surfaces with another clean soft cloth. Laminates and high gloss materials MUST be dried with a microfiber cloth to avoid scratches.

SPLATTERS & SPILLS

Any splatters & spills should be wiped as soon as possible. Clean as needed with warm water or the mild dishwashing liquid solution. Prolonged exposure to food, water and other liquids, as well as grease and oil splatters can cause permanent damage or discoloration to your cabinet's finish. Dry after cleaning for stained and painted cabinetry. Dry laminates and high gloss cabinets with a microfiber cloth.

GLASS DOOR CARE

Clean glass doors with an ammonia-free glass cleaner on a clean, soft, lint-free cloth or paper towel, and wiping down the glass. Don't spray glass cleaner directly on the glass to avoid seepage behind mullions or dividers, which could cause damage to the wood or other materials.

POLISHING/WAXING

Polishing or waxing is not necessary to maintain the shine or color of your cabinetry. Over time, waxing and polishing compounds may build up on cabinet surfaces forming a hazy, streaked or yellowed appearance. Wax build up is difficult to remove and is not recommended.

PAINT KNICKS & CHIPS

Touch-up kits are available to help hide surface damage on cabinetry. Your cabinet retailer can facilitate the purchase of the color-matched touch-up kit for your specific cabinetry.

The kit will contain instructions on how to use it — the touch-up pen will hide minor blemishes, while the tinted putty stick will fill deeper scratches, gouges or nicks.

FURTHERMORE

Moisture: Don't drape damp dishtowels or clothes over your cabinet doors. Moisture can cause permanent damage, like peeling and discoloration to the cabinet finish. Dry wet surfaces immediately using a soft, clean cloth. Wood will expand and contract based upon the amount of moisture in the home. Maintaining a consistent temperature and humidity level is key to cabinet health.

Heat: Heat from the self-cleaning oven feature is much greater than normal cooking temperatures, and could potentially damage surrounding cabinetry. While it is a rare occurrence, minimize the risk of cabinet damage by removing cabinet doors and drawers closest to the oven before using the self-cleaning feature.

Sunlight: Direct sunlight tends to darken the color of natural wood products, with the exception of walnut, which will lighten. Painted wood surfaces and laminates, including high gloss are also suspect to fading or discoloration. Draperies or blinds are the best defense to shield cabinetry from direct sunlight. Additionally, don't clean laminates and high gloss materials in direct sun-light.

PRODUCTS TO AVOID

Avoid cleaning your cabinetry with harsh detergents, strong soaps, multi-purpose and abrasive cleaning products such as: **tub and sink cleaners, scouring powders and scouring pads, steel wool or self-polishing waxes, sponges or dishcloths, ammonia, bleach or cleaning products that contain either ammonia or bleach, silicone based cleaning, waxing or polishing products, solvent based or petroleum based products such as mineral spirits, nail-polish removers or paint thinners.** They could contain particles that could scratch your cabinets, as well as food, oil residue or remnants of harsh cleaning solutions. **DO NOT USE** paper towels or similar products especially for high gloss cabinetry, due to the ease of scratching.

THE NATURE OF ALL WOODS

Regardless of the wood species you select for your home, wood is a natural material and no two pieces are exactly the same. Wood varies greatly in grain pattern and some finishes naturally exaggerate different defining characteristics, such as mineral deposits/streaks, knots, sap runs, pinholes and wormholes. These markings make each piece unique and are part of the enduring beauty of your wood selection.

As a natural material, all wood is affected by exposure to light, heat and harsh chemicals. It is also naturally affected by moisture and seasonal changes in humidity. Wood will naturally contract (shrink) in low humidity and expand in high humidity conditions. Mitered door styles and solid wood center panels tend to exhibit more noticeable changes and subtle movement in humid conditions.

CHARACTERISTIC OF FINISH

Wood products, including cabinet doors, drawer fronts and face frames, will always be affected by environmental conditions. Cabinet finishes are also affected by artificial and natural light sources. Over time, cabinetry finishes will darken or mellow. IVO Cabinets & Surfaces adheres tightly to an acceptable range of color for each of our furniture finishes and within this range, natural variation will occur, although it will be slight.

As wood naturally expands and contracts over time, this movement may cause hairline cracks in the finish surface over time at the joints. This will be most noticeable in some of our more semi opaque and painted finishes. These are the natural characteristics in wood and are not a reflection of poor craftsmanship. IVO tries to improve on some of nature's characteristics, but cannot consider these natural characteristics as a reason for product replacement.

Ovens and ranges will emit heat and steam during operation. To protect the finish of adjacent cabinets, we recommend the installation of Heat Shields. These heat resistant acrylic strips attach to the side of adjacent cabinets to shield the doors and drawer fronts from excessive heat.

If you have any questions or concerns about properly cleaning your cabinets, please feel free to contact IVO Cabinets & Surfaces and one of our team members will gladly assist you!