

Cabinet Care

DUSTING

Like fine furniture, wood cabinets should be dusted periodically. Always dust your cabinetry with a polish-moistened cloth. Do not overmoisten the cloth. Using a cloth that was moistened from a faucet is not recommended by Landmark. Excessive water or moisture on the cabinetry may cause a finish failure. Also, dry dusting is not recommended either, this may scratch the surface. It is a good practice to follow the grain of the wood while dusting because wiping against the grain may also cause scratches to appear if the dust contains grit. In normal use, residues such as cooking vapors, cigarette smoke or body oils might accumulate on the finished wood surfaces. For these types of residues, use a furniture cleaner. Again, do not saturate the cloth, and use appropriate amount of pressure needed to remove the residue. Remember to select a cloth that is not coarse or abrasive since that may scratch the finish. A soft cleaning cloth that does not leave lint is recommended such as cotton or flannel while they are also absorbent. This will make cleaning much easier.

CLEANING

Landmark recommends using a cleaner that contains a degreasing agent as well as a cleaning agent. This will bring the beauty of the finish and cabinetry to its peak. It is not recommended to wash the cabinetry with soap and water. It may leave a film and can harm the finish if left on the surface too long. It is also not a recommended practice to use a product that contains silicone. Check the label on the bottle or can to verify there is no silicone in the product. Using a cleaner or polish that contains silicone will limit any repairs that may ever need to be made to the cabinetry. For example, if you scratch your cabinetry after applying a product that contains silicone and try to use a touch up kit to repair the scratch, the aerosol top coat will repel and create a "fish-eye" appearance. There are several good cleaners and polishes on the market that do not contain silicone and these products should do a good job but read the directions. Landmark does recommend one product that is manufactured by Guardsman. This cleaner is designed with a unique formula for fine furniture / cabinetry. Used as directed, Guardsman Cabinet Cleaner will safely emulsify and lift off old polish, wax, as well as many types of stains and discolorations. All Landmark Authorized Dealers have the Premium Kitchen Cabinet Care Kit (PKCCK) available.

WOOD PROTECTION

A key ingredient to maintain a finish is to eliminate potentially damaging environmental elements such as sunlight, moisture, heat and humidity.

New furniture, including kitchen cabinets, require a period of curing to take place, approximately six months, so that the finish can achieve its maximum performance properties. Avoid placing excessive weight on an unprotected area or dragging items across the surface.

SPILLS

When spills occur they should be blotted up as quickly as possible before the liquid penetrates the surface. Avoid placing damp objects such as towels, flower pots, glasses, etc., on cabinet surfaces without a moisture barrier such as a coaster or tray. It is also a good practice not to place hot items such as pots, pans, plates or cups on the surface without coasters.

HUMIDITY

When cabinets are installed in a room, they will have to adjust to the humidity present. The ideal humidity level for your home should be 45% to 55% humidity at 70°F.

Controlling the environment will help prevent warping and splitting of the cabinet components and prevent a hazy appearance in the finish. Extreme variations in temperature is a variable that also needs to be controlled.

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 the off season.

EFFECTS OF MOISTURE IN WOOD

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

TOUCH-UP HINTS

1. Filling - Using a Patchall Pencil (PAP) rub in putty with light pressure across the damaged area.
2. Surface Leveling - Gently wipe off excess putty with a dry, soft cotton cloth.
3. Coloring - Remove loose particles then apply color to the damaged edges with a Felt Tip Touch-up Pen (FTP).
4. Sealing - A light spray of acrylic lacquer gives a seal corresponding to the degree of sheen, and at the same time provides a base suitable for needed touch-ups in the future.
5. Touch up materials are only available in Landmark standard stains and paints.
6. Landmark offers Touch Up Materials including Customer Care Kit (CCK), Patchall Pencil (PAP), and Felt Tip Pen (FTP) in Landmark standard stains and paints.