



## CABINTRY Care and Cleaning

Like any furniture in your home, cabinetry benefits from regular care and maintenance to preserve its appearance and performance over time. This Cabinet Care and Cleaning guide is designed to help you better understand your cabinetry and provide clear guidance on everything from everyday cleaning to environmental factors that may impact its longevity.

### A. Storage & Acclimation

For best results, cabinetry should be stored in the room where it will be installed prior to installation. This allows the materials to acclimate to the space's temperature and humidity levels, helping ensure proper fit and long-term performance once installed.

### B. Daily Maintenance

Keeping your cabinets in great shape starts with simple, consistent care. Wipe up any water, grease, or food splatter as soon as it happens. If residue or moisture is left sitting over time, it can lead to permanent damage to the cabinet finish.

- Pay extra attention to areas near the sink and dishwasher.
- Avoid hanging damp cloths or towels over cabinet doors.
- Do not use dishcloths or sponges on cabinet surfaces.

#### Ongoing Care: Recommended Products & Method

To preserve the appearance of your cabinets, dust surfaces weekly and perform light cleaning once or twice per month using gentle materials.

#### Weekly Dusting

Use a soft, dry tool to remove dust and prevent buildup on doors and drawer fronts:

- Feather duster
- Disposable duster (e.g., Swiffer-style)
- Dry, lint-free microfiber cloth

#### Monthly Cleaning (1–2 Times Per Month)

Supplies:

- Mild dish soap
- Warm water
- Two lint-free microfiber cloths

Steps:

1. Combine two tablespoons of mild dish soap with two cups of warm water.
2. Lightly dampen a clean microfiber cloth with the solution and gently wipe cabinet exteriors.
3. Immediately follow with a second, dry microfiber cloth to remove any moisture.



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### Helpful Tip

Always apply cleaning solution to your cloth first—never directly onto the cabinet surface.

### What to Avoid

Using the wrong products or tools can damage your cabinet finish or leave behind unwanted buildup. To protect the integrity and appearance of your cabinetry, avoid the following:

#### Harsh or Chemical Cleaners

- Abrasive or powdered cleaners
- Ammonia-based products
- Bleach
- Citrus-based cleaners

#### Surface Coatings & Polishes

- Wax-based cleaners
- Polishing products

#### Rough Cleaning Tools

- Scouring pads
- Steel wool
- Magic erasers
- Paper towels

#### Other Items to Avoid

- Dishcloths
- Sponges

These examples represent common products that can cause unnecessary wear, discoloration, or residue buildup. Following these guidelines will help maintain a clean, safe surface and extend the life and beauty of your cabinetry.

## C. Long-Term Care & Maintenance

Proper long-term care is essential for preserving both the appearance and performance of your cabinetry. With regular upkeep and occasional hardware adjustments, you can ensure lasting durability and smooth operation for years to come.

### Deep Cleaning Guidelines

Every three to four months, perform a more thorough cleaning of both the interior and exterior surfaces.

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1. Begin by emptying the cabinets completely. Remove any crumbs or debris with a vacuum, then clean all surfaces using the same mild soap and warm water method recommended for routine care.
2. Once the interior is complete, dust and wipe down the cabinet exteriors.
3. For stubborn, stuck-on residue, create a paste using baking soda and warm water. Apply it with a damp microfiber cloth and gently work in small circular motions. Immediately wipe clean with a dry cloth to prevent moisture from lingering.

### Helpful Tip

Clean in smaller sections to stay organized and avoid spreading dirt or moisture.

### Hinge Adjustments

With regular use, cabinet doors may shift slightly over time. Minor hinge adjustments can restore proper alignment and function.

#### Soft-Close Hinge Adjustments

These cabinets are equipped with multi-directional, European-style soft-close hinges for precise alignment.



#### 1. Vertical (Up/Down) Adjustment

Aligns doors and drawer fronts evenly with surrounding cabinetry.

#### 2. Horizontal (Left/Right) Adjustment

Moves the door side-to-side for improved spacing or alignment. This can also fine-tune the position of the top or bottom of the door.

#### 3. Depth (In/Out) Adjustment

Adjust how close the door sits to the cabinet frame.

Keep in mind that multiple hinges on a single door may need to be adjusted together to achieve the best overall result.

## D. Touch-Up & Repair

Minor wear is a normal part of everyday use. Small nicks, scratches, and joint lines can appear over time, but they're easy to minimize with the right tools. Color-matched touch-up kits are available for each finish to help restore the look of your cabinetry and keep surfaces looking clean and consistent.



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### **What's Included in a Touch-Up Kit**

- Touch-up marker
- Fill (wax) stick
- Application tool

### **Touch-Up Tips & Application**

Whether you're addressing light scratches or small gaps, these simple steps will help improve the appearance of your cabinets.

### **Light Scratches & Worn Edges**

Supplies Needed:

- Touch-up marker
- Soft cloth

Steps:

1. Shake the marker well before use.
2. Press the tip gently onto a test surface (like cardboard) to start the flow—avoid oversaturating.
3. Apply to the affected area using smooth, even strokes.
4. Wipe away any excess with a soft cloth.
5. Allow a few minutes to dry.

### **Small Imperfections & Open Joints**

Supplies Needed:

- Wax fill stick
- Application tool

Steps:

1. Lightly fill the area using the wax stick.
  - a. Follow the direction of the scratch for best blending.
  - b. For worn spots, apply in the direction of the wood grain.
2. Use the application tool to remove excess and smooth the surface until it is even.

With proper use, these touch-up techniques can help maintain a polished, well-kept appearance over time.

## **E. Environmental Considerations**

The surrounding environment plays a major role in the longevity and appearance of your cabinetry. Ongoing exposure to certain conditions can gradually affect both the finish and structural integrity.



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Being mindful of these elements can help preserve the look and performance of your cabinets over time.

Key factors to monitor include:

- Sunlight
- Smoke
- High heat
- Climate and moisture

### **Sunlight**

Prolonged exposure to direct sunlight can lead to permanent changes in your cabinet finish, including fading or darkening. While protective coatings are applied during manufacturing, they cannot fully prevent the effects of constant UV exposure. To help maintain color consistency, consider using blinds, shades, or curtains to limit direct sunlight.

### **Smoke**

Smoke from cooking or tobacco can gradually discolor cabinet surfaces if not properly managed. To reduce buildup and protect the finish, ensure your space is well-ventilated, especially during frequent cooking.

### **High Heat**

Excessive heat, particularly from oven self-cleaning cycles, can impact nearby cabinetry. The elevated temperatures generated during this process may cause damage to doors, drawers, or finishes. To reduce risk, remove or open cabinet components closest to the oven before starting a self-cleaning cycle.

### **Climate & Moisture**

#### **Climate**

Wood naturally responds to changes in humidity. High humidity can cause expansion, while very dry conditions can lead to contraction. Over time, uncontrolled environments may result in swelling, cracking, or separation at joints and seams. Maintaining a stable indoor climate helps minimize these effects.

#### **Moisture**

Keeping cabinetry dry is essential. Any spills or water exposure should be wiped up immediately using a clean, lint-free microfiber cloth. Avoid placing damp towels or cloths over cabinet surfaces and limit exposure to steam from appliances such as dishwashers or pressure cookers. By managing these environmental factors, you can help extend the life and maintain the beauty of your cabinetry for years to come.