

CABINETRY CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDE

Cabinetry – Care & Maintenance Guide

Proper care will help protect your kitchen cabinets and keep them looking beautiful for years to come. Whether your cabinetry is painted, stained wood, or laminate, here's how to preserve the finish and ensure long-lasting function.

Daily & Routine Cleaning

- **Wipe spills promptly:** Use a soft, damp cloth to wipe up spills immediately. Standing water or splashes (especially near sinks, dishwashers, or under coffee machines) can cause warping or discoloration over time.
- **Mild soap only:** For routine cleaning, use a soft cloth or sponge with warm water and a small amount of mild dish soap. Rinse with clean water and dry with a lint-free towel.
- **Avoid oversaturation:** Excess moisture – including from over-wetting cloths – can damage the cabinetry finish and cause warping or bubbling.

Monthly or Deep Cleaning

- **Use a gentle cleaner:** A 50/50 mix of white vinegar and water or a pH-balanced wood cleaner is safe for most cabinetry. Always test any cleaner on a hidden area first.
- **Clean hardware:** Gently clean knobs and pulls using warm, soapy water. Dry thoroughly to prevent corrosion or spotting.
- **Dust the tops:** If your cabinets don't go to the ceiling, regularly dust the tops to prevent buildup of grease and grime.

Protecting the Finish

- **Avoid harsh chemicals:** Do not use bleach, ammonia, strong solvents, abrasive cleaners, or scouring pads. These can strip the finish or dull painted surfaces.
- **Use cabinet bumpers:** Soft-close bumpers help reduce wear from slamming and preserve hinges.
- **Prevent sun damage:** Prolonged exposure to direct sunlight can cause fading or yellowing. Use window treatments or UV-protective film if needed.

Humidity & Temperature Tips

- **Maintain consistent humidity:** Wood cabinets can expand and contract with humidity. Use a dehumidifier in high-moisture areas, especially in summer.
- **Avoid extreme heat:** Don't place small appliances (like toasters or kettles) directly under upper cabinets – the rising heat can damage the underside over time.

Painted or Stained Cabinetry Specifics

- **Painted finishes:** More prone to chipping or showing wear over time. Avoid aggressive scrubbing, and use a gentle touch when cleaning corners and edges.
- **Stained wood:** May benefit from an occasional light polish with a wood furniture polish or conditioner, but avoid anything with silicone or wax that can build up.

Quick Dos & Don'ts

✔ DO:

- Clean gently and regularly
- Wipe spills right away
- Use soft, damp cloths
- Dry all surfaces completely

✘ DON'T:

- Use bleach or harsh chemicals
- Scrub with abrasive pads
- Leave wet towels or rags draped over cabinet doors
- Let grease or food residue build up