



## CARE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE

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# Care and Cleaning

Once your new kitchen has been installed and touched up, cleaning is the most important item that must be done. During normal installation, sawdust and other materials may be in the cabinet. To properly care for your cabinetry, remove dust from cabinets frequently with a soft lint-free cloth. You may slightly dampen your cloth with water or spray-type dust remover. If you spill anything on your cabinets, clean immediately. Use a clean cloth and mild soap if necessary. Wipe dry with clean, soft cloth.

To keep your cabinets beautiful, avoid spray-type polishes containing petroleum solvents. Wood cabinetry finishes may be cleaned and protected using any commercial cleaning polish. Use any polishes that are formulated without wax, petroleum solvents or silicone. The extended use of wax polishes can result in a wax film build-up. The use of silicone polishes can harm the cabinet finish. Do not use a dish cloth to wipe your cabinets exterior, as it may contain remnants of grease or detergent.

For everyday care, it is important to wipe up spills and water marks as they occur. Give special attention to areas around the sink and dishwasher.

## **Use a quality furniture polish found at your local super market.**

Caring for the natural beauty of your BJ Tidwell Cabinetry means proper maintenance. Here is how to prevent damages:

1. **Excess water**, when left unattended, can cause white spots and haziness to the finish and even damage the wood itself. Always remove excess liquid promptly, especially in moisture-prone areas, such as sink, range, dishwasher and baseboard areas.
2. **Direct Sunlight** can cause exposed areas to lighten or darken over time. When possible, keep cabinets out of direct sunlight or draw curtains during the sunniest part of the day. Be especially careful with cherry and maple cabinets.
3. **Smoke and grease** can form a hard film over time, dulling the finish. Routine cleaning can prevent long term damage.

**CAUTION:** The use of self-cleaning appliances can generate intense heat during the cleaning cycle. The integrity of the appliance seal or appliance door gaskets may be compromised with age, or improper installation, etc. We recommend the removal of the doors and pulling out the drawer on the cabinet adjacent to or directly above the appliance during a cleaning cycle.

## **SURFACE DAMAGE**

As careful as you are, there may still be times when your new cabinets will get nicks and scratches. Your dealer has cabinet touch-up kits. It is a smart idea to purchase one of these kits to make small repairs as needed.

## **SCRATCHES & SCRAPES**

Most cabinet scratches can be touched up using a matching touch-up marker that is available from your dealer.

## **NICKS OR GOUGES**

A deeper damage requires using a soft fill stick. This will make the necessary repairs.

**NOTE:** Scratches across the grain are very difficult to repair and damages that are more substantial should be repaired by a professional finisher to prevent possible finish or surface damage.

# Wood Information

Wood is hygroscopic - meaning, when exposed to air, wood will lose or gain moisture until it is in equilibrium with the humidity and temperature of its environment. BJ Tidwell Cabinetry closely monitors the moisture content of its product up until the point it is placed on the truck for delivery. Even then, protective coatings cannot prevent wood from gaining or losing moisture; they merely slow the process.

Most of the shrinkage and expansion problems with wood cabinetry involve job site or storage moisture conditions. These conditions cannot be controlled by cabinet manufacturers or in many instances by sub-contractors responsible for installing the cabinetry, unless interior humidity is maintained at proper levels.

For wood cabinetry professionals, it is important to inform users about the normal and expected behavior of wood in relation to moisture and the environment. Most wood cabinetry will contract during periods of low humidity, which is usually during the heating season, or expand during periods of high humidity. To help minimize these effects, it is important that users balance the environment of the building through temperature and humidity control.

Fortunately wood cabinetry performs at its best both during and after installation, when the relative humidity range of 30 to 50 percent and temperature range of 60 to 80 degrees, the range most people find comfortable.

## Grain

Grain is the texture seen in cut wood. Door panel grain runs vertical, while drawer front grain runs horizontal.

## Beech

Beech is a heavy, pale-colored medium to hard wood. It has a fine grain and medular rays, similar in appearance to maple or birch woods. Beech wood has a high shock resistance and takes stains well.

## Cherry

Cherry is a fine textured, strong and fairly durable wood and is well known for becoming darker and richer with age.

While fairly pale when freshly cut, the end result is a favored reddish brown with a golden luster hue.

## Knotty Alder

Knotty Alder features a color range of light brown with reddish or peach hues. With soft, straight grain and even texture, it's characteristic also includes small and large split knots and open knots that vary in size, shape, and color.

## Maple

Maple is a close grained wood that is generally straight, but may be wavy in some instances. Its color ranges from nearly white, to an off-white cream color, sometimes with a reddish or golden hue.

## Oak

Oak features medium-to-large pores and a fairly coarse grain. Oak wood has a light to medium reddish-brown color that sometimes is streaked with mineral deposits and may vary from a close knot grain to sweeping arch pattern.

BJ Tidwell Cabinetry products carry a five year warranty against defective material and workmanship from date of delivery. This warranty does not cover misuse, abuse, overloading, improper storage or installation. During the warranty period, all defective materials will be replaced by BJ Tidwell Cabinetry at no charge to the consumer except for cost of removal, transportation and installation.

In keeping with our continuous refinement policy, BJ Tidwell Cabinetry reserves the right to change design, specifications, materials and prices without notice or obligation to make similar changes in products previously produced.

Wood is a product of nature, each tree varies in grain, pattern, density and color. Nature's impact determines the wood's distinctive character. Color match and grain patterns will vary because of material characteristics and are not considered defects by BJ Tidwell Cabinetry. Exposure to sunlight, smoke and chemicals may cause some materials to fade or vary from their original color over time.

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