

MAINTENANCE

Little maintenance is required to keep *highwood*® material looking good. The product should be cleaned as needed to remove dirt and debris. No abrasive or harsh chemicals should be used on the product. Aromatic solvents (e.g. toluene, xylene) or cleaners containing aromatic solvents (e.g. Citri-Solv) should never be used on *highwood*® materials.

CLEANING

Hot soapy water is the best choice for cleaning *highwood*® material. *highwood*® is a hard material with a non-porous surface, therefore it does not readily stain and most spills do not stick. Any water-based household cleaner can be used to clean the surface, including Windex, 409, Pledge, Murphy's Oil Soap, Simple Green and citrus cleaners. Avoid any cleaner that contains solvents or harsh chemicals. If unsure of the cleaner, test on a small area before cleaning. Although not commonly necessary, *highwood*® materials can be pressure-washed.

COMPATIBLE MATERIALS

highwood® products are based on polystyrene, and are therefore susceptible to aromatic solvents such as benzene, toluene and xylene, and the various derivatives of these chemicals. Such chemicals will cause permanent changes to the product. Prolonged exposure to aliphatic solvents such as mineral oil, mineral spirits, n-petane, kerosene, VM & P, and gasoline will cause discoloration of *highwood*® products, and may impact mechanical properties. Oxygenated solvents such as alcohols, ketones, glycol ethers, esters, and glycol ether esters do not cause appreciable change in *highwood*® products, and any water-based product, including cleaners, coatings and pesticides, is safe to use with *highwood*® products. Before using any cleaning agent, stain, paint or other surface treatment, be sure to test a small area to ensure that the product is compatible.

DAMAGE REPAIR

MINOR SCUFFS AND SCRATCHES

Minor scuffs in *highwood*® profiles can easily be removed by gently buffing with '0000' steel wool. The steel wool blends the scuff or scratch with the surrounding material, and leaves the area with a slightly different patina than the original product. Now that the scratch is removed, the area can be polished with Pledge furniture polish or Carnauba wax to bring up the luster to blend with the virgin profile.

DEEP SCRATCHES

To remove deeper scratches in the product, use a single-edged razor blade to skive the high spots from the surface of the product. Holding the razor blade perpendicular (the tip of the blade directly against the product) to the profile, scrape the surface along the length of the scratch to shave off the raised edges of the scratch. This typically requires 2 to 3 passes with the blade along the length of the scratch. Once the raised edges are removed, use the steel wool and wax technique (noted above) for blending out the area.

LARGE DENTS

For large dents and gouges, use 'sawdust' from the same color *highwood*® profile and lacquer thinner to make a 'plastic wood' patch compound. In a small container, and using the proper personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves, goggles, ventilation) for the solvent, mix some sawdust with a small amount of lacquer thinner to develop a thick paste. Fill the gouge with the paste, smoothing the surface of the patch as best as possible. After the patch dries, use a razor blade to skive off any high spots, and then buff with steel wool and polish the area to blend the color and complete the repair.