

## THE HOMEOWNERS' GUIDE TO: **CARE & CLEANING**

Wondering how to keep your new cabinets looking beautiful? We can help! Follow these instructions: Dust them periodically, keep them clean by using a soft lint-free cloth, — or a microfiber cloth for laminate and high gloss cabinetry — AND THAT'S IT!

### Cabinet Care



#### Need to fight some grime?

- Usually, a clean, soft cotton cloth —or microfiber cloth for laminate and high gloss cabinetry — dampened with warm water will do the trick!
- For extra grime fighting, a mild solution of dishwashing liquid (not dishwasher products) mixed with fresh, clean, warm water will take care of dirt and grease. 5% dishwashing liquid to 95% water is a good ratio.
- After cleaning your stained or painted cabinets, wipe them down with a clean, damp cloth and be sure to dry wet/damp surfaces with another clean soft cloth.
- Laminates and high gloss materials **MUST** be dried with a microfiber cloth to avoid scratches.



#### What about splatters and spills?

- Make sure to wipe them up quickly! Then, clean as needed with warm water or the mild dishwashing liquid solution. Prolonged exposure to food, water and other liquids, as well as grease and oil splatters can cause permanent damage or discoloration to your cabinet's finish.
- Don't forget to dry after cleaning, using a soft, clean cloth for stained and painted cabinetry. Dry laminates and high gloss cabinets with a microfiber cloth.



#### Glass door care.

- Clean the glass by spraying an ammonia-free glass cleaner on a clean, soft, lint-free cloth or paper towel, and wiping down the glass. Don't spray glass cleaner directly on the glass to avoid seepage behind mullions or dividers, which could cause damage to the wood or other materials.



#### Should I polish or wax?

Neither!

- Your cabinets don't require waxing and we don't recommend it. Over time, waxing and polishing compounds may build up on cabinet surfaces forming a hazy, streaked or yellowed appearance. Wax build up is really hard to remove — no one has time for that!



#### Uh-oh. I have a nick on my wood or painted cabinetry.

- Touch-up kits are available to help hide surface damage on cabinetry. Your cabinet retailer can facilitate the purchase of the color-matched touch-up kit for your specific cabinetry.
- The kit will contain instructions on what to do — the touch-up pen will hide minor blemishes, while the tinted putty stick will fill deeper scratches, gouges or nicks.



#### Other things to be aware of.

- Don't drape damp dishtowels or clothes over your cabinet doors. Moisture can cause permanent damage, like peeling and discoloration to the cabinet finish. Dry wet surfaces immediately using a soft, clean cloth.
  - More on the topic of moisture: Wood will expand and contract based upon the amount of moisture in the home. Maintaining a consistent temperature and humidity level is key to cabinet health. Please refer to the Cabinet Warranty and The Homeowners Guide to Humidification sheets for details on proper humidity and temperature ranges.
- Heat from the self-cleaning oven feature is much greater than normal cooking temperatures, and could potentially damage surrounding cabinetry. While it is a rare occurrence, minimize the risk of cabinet damage by removing cabinet doors and drawers closest to the oven before using the self-cleaning feature.
- Direct sunlight tends to darken the color of natural wood products, with the exception of walnut, which will lighten. Painted wood surfaces and laminates, including high gloss are also suspect to fading or discoloration. Draperies or blinds are the best defense to shield cabinetry from direct sunlight.
  - Additionally, don't clean laminates and high gloss materials in direct sunlight.



#### Products to avoid.

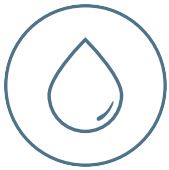
- Harsh detergents, strong soaps, multi-purpose and abrasive cleaning products:
  - Tub and sink cleaners
  - Scouring powders and scouring pads
  - Steel wool or self-polishing waxes
- Sponges or dish cloths. They could contain particles that could scratch your cabinets, as well as food, oil residue or remnants of harsh cleaning solutions.
- Paper towels or similar products especially for high gloss cabinetry, due to the ease of scratching.
- Solvent based or petroleum based products such as mineral spirits, nail-polish removers or paint thinners.
- Ammonia, bleach or cleaning products that contain either ammonia or bleach.
- Silicone based cleaning, waxing or polishing products.

## THE HOMEOWNERS' GUIDE TO: **CABINETS & HUMIDIFICATION**

If you are thinking about, or have just purchased wood cabinetry, you'll need to know how controlled indoor humidity will keep your cabinets looking their absolute best all throughout the year!

A range of 30-55% humidity is important when outdoor temperatures range between 50 - 85 degrees. This keeps your home comfortable and problem-free, with wood cabinetry looking and performing at its best. Uncontrolled humidity extremes will likely cause problems within the home, particularly with cabinetry and wood furniture pieces. Keep tabs on humidity levels with a digital hygrometer, available at many local retailers. Indoor digital thermometers, often have a humidity gauge as well.

### Prevent Damage



#### Steps to balance humidity levels in your home.

- Run heating, cooling and humidification systems consistently to maintain balance within the home.
- Make sure outside drainage is routed away from the home, and that vapor barriers are properly installed.
- Proper insulation is key. Check with local contractors, HVAC specialists or the county extension service for more information on how to achieve balance between moisture levels and ventilation to achieve proper humidity levels in all seasons.



#### Should I be concerned during installation?

- MasterBrand recommends that our products be stored and installed in a temperate atmosphere, where the humidity level and temperature are controlled.
- Allow cabinetry to acclimate to its new environment for a few days prior to installation. This will minimize the degree that doors might swell or shrink, allowing them to return to original dimensions once they have acclimated.
- Some remodeling or construction sites add to humidity levels when taping drywall, pouring concrete, etc. These tasks must be completed prior to installation.

### Keep in Mind



#### Important details to note!

- Different wood species react differently to humidity than others.
- Products installed in non-air conditioned homes are susceptible to moisture imbalance. Part-time residences (winter or summer homes) must maintain climate control at all times.
- Homeowners in high humidity climates must be vigilant about maintaining the proper indoor humidity level.

Some expansion or contraction of wood products can occur and become noticeable when cabinetry is moved from place to place or when weather conditions change, causing humidity to fluctuate. In fact, most changes in wood appearance result from improper humidity conditions during site storage, installation or actual use of the cabinetry.

## Effects of Humidity

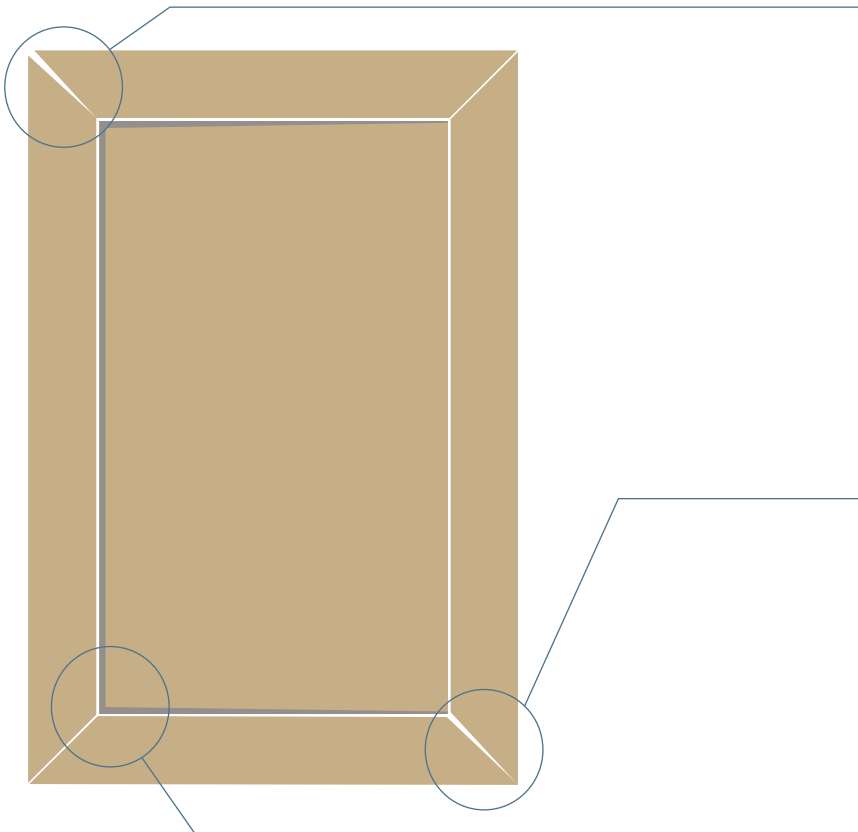
What happens when temperature and humidity levels are extreme?

Coastal or other areas that are known for high humidity may see 70%-80% humidity levels within the home, causing cabinet joints to swell. Geographical areas that have extremely cold, dry winters, may often have a relative humidity below 20% for weeks at a time, causing shrinkage of doors and/or center panels to occur.

Examples of humidity imbalance include: swollen doors or drawer fronts and butt doors that do not close properly. Door and drawer front panel contraction or expansion, joint separation — especially in mitered doors — and the bowing of stiles and rails of the cabinet door or drawer fronts can also occur.

- Adjusting door hinges may help swollen or contracted doors for a better appearance until acclimation occurs.

These reactions are NORMAL, and are not a fault of the cabinetry. Open or closed joints will be more prominent on painted cabinetry.

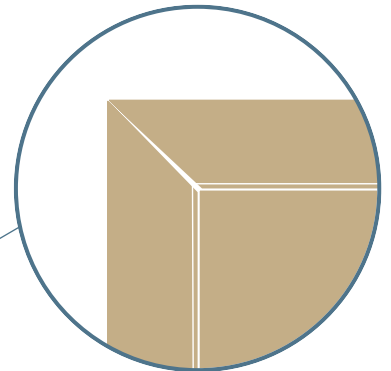


### HIGH HUMIDITY



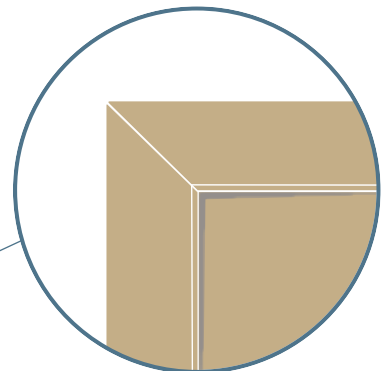
When wood swells, miter joints open as shown above.

### LOW HUMIDITY



When wood shrinks, miter joints open as shown above.

### SHRINKAGE



When wood shrinks, the center panel may shift position as shown above.

New cabinets are meant to last for years to come. Now that you're in the know about humidity and its effects, you'll appreciate the nuances of beautiful, breathing wood!