

# FRAMED CABINET CARE GUIDE

Routine Cleaning Tips
Long Term Care & Maintenance
Touch-Up Application
Environmental Effects

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Just like any piece of furniture in your home, your cabinets require care and maintenance to help keep them looking their best for years to come. Our Cabinet Care Guide guides you to better understand your cabinetry and to help answer questions from routine care to external environment elements that can affect your cabinetry.

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## **Everyday Care**

Maintaining your cabinets starts with everyday care. It is key to clean up any spills or splatters that may occur from water or grease on a daily basis. Over time, prolonged exposure to food debris, grease/oil splatters, & liquids can permanently damage your cabinet finish.



- Special attention should be given to areas around the sink and dishwasher.
- Never drape damp cloths or rags over cabinetry.
- Do not use dish cloths or sponges.

#### Routine Care: What to Use & How to Use It

To keep your cabinets looking their best, we recommend dusting the exterior weekly and cleaning the exterior with mild dish soap and warm water once to twice a month.

#### **Weekly Dusting**



- Feather Duster
- Swiffer Duster
- Dry Microfiber Cloth

Use a duster weekly to keep your cabinets dust-free and to prevent buildup on the doors and drawer fronts.

## **Routine Cleaning** (Once to Twice a Month)



- Mild Dish Soap
- Warm Water
- Microfiber Cloth (Lint Free) x2
- 1) Mix two tablespoons of mild dish soap and two cups of warm water in a bowl.
- 2) Dampen your clean microfiber cloth with the soap and water mixture and gently wipe the cabinet exterior. Follow immediately with a dry cloth.



## CABINET CARE GUIDE

## routine cleaning tips

#### What Not to Use

Just like any other piece of wood furniture you have in your home, your cabinets must be cared for with the proper products. We've compiled a list of common household cleaners and tools that we <u>do not recommend</u> to be used on your cabinetry.



#### • Abrasive & Chemically Based Cleaners

- Powdered Cleaners
- Ammonia
- Bleach
- Citrus Cleaners
- Other
  - Wax-Based Cleaners
  - Polishing Products

#### Scrubbing Tools

- Scouring Pads
- Steel Wool
- Magic Erasers
- Paper Towels

#### Other

- Dish Cloths
- Sponges

These are only some of the various products that should not be used when cleaning your cabinetry, as they can cause unnecessary damage and product buildup. Keep these tips in mind to ensure safe cleaning practices are used to enhance the life of your cabinetry.



## long-term cabinet care & maintenance



Long-term care for your cabinets is imperative to maintain the internal and external cabinet finish and hardware functionality. Periodic cleaning and hardware adjustments are also necessary to help maintain your cabinets' longevity.

## **Periodic Cleaning Tips**

Every three to four months, thoroughly clean in the inside and outside of your cabinets.



1) Start by clearing out the contents of the cabinets and vacuuming out any debris, followed by a thorough cleaning using the same soap and water method used during your routine cleaning practices.



- 2) Dust and clean the exterior of your cabinets.
- 3) If you find any caked-on substances that are a little tougher to remove with soap and water, simply mix baking soda with warm water until you have a thick paste. Dab a damp microfiber cloth into the paste and gently scrub the caked-on substance in small circular motions. Follow immediately with a dry cloth.



## long-term cabinet care & maintenance

## **Hinge & Glide Adjustments**

Doors and drawers can shift with the persistent use of the cabinets. Follow these adjustment tips to keep your doors and drawers functioning and looking their best.

#### **Soft-Close Hinge Adjustments**

Our Highland Series framed cabinets come standard with 6-way adjustable European style hinges with soft close.



#### 1. Up/Down Adjustment

The up/down adjustment helps to align doors and drawer fronts to each other.

## 2. Left/Right Adjustment

The left/right adjustment can be used to move the entire door or just the top or bottom half of the door.

#### 3. In/Out Adjustment

The in/out adjustment moves the door closer or away from the face-frame.

## **Soft-Close Glide Adjustments**

Our Highland Series framed cabinets come standard 6-way adjustable undermount fullextension soft-close drawer glides.



#### 1. Up/Down Adjustment

The up/down adjustment helps to align doors and drawer fronts to each other.

## 2. Left/Right Adjustment

The left/right adjustment can be used to move the entire drawer front or just the top or bottom half of the drawer front.

## 3. In/Out Adjustment

The in/out adjustment moves the drawer front closer or away from the face-frame.

#### 4. Release Lever

Pull this lever on both the left & right glide clips to release the drawer box from the glides.

When adjusting hinges and/or glide clips, it is important to note that each hinge and/or glide clip may require adjustment to achieve the desired results.

#### **Decorative Hardware Care**

Cabinet handles and knobs are some of the most touched surfaces in your home and just like any other surface, it's important to include cleaning your hardware in your cleaning routine.

By using the same soap and water method used to clean the cabinets, you can easily keep your decorative hardware looking brand new for years to come. Resist using any type of silver or brass polishes as they contain harsh chemicals that can damage the finish of your cabinetry.

In addition to cleaning your decorative hardware, it's also important to periodically tighten the screws to avoid handles and knobs from coming loose or falling off.



It should come as no surprise that cabinets can be prone to surface damage. Small dings and chips seem to pop up out of nowhere. Fortunately, touch-up kits are available for each cabinet finish we offer to help hide any of those small areas of surface damage on your cabinetry.

## What's In a Touch-Up Kit?



- Paint Pen (Marker)
- Fill Stick
- Buffer Pad
- Application Card

## **Touch-Up Process & Tips**

From scratches to open joints, a touch-up kit helps to hide the imperfections and continues to make your cabinets look their best.

#### **Light Scratches & Rubbed Edges**

To fill in light scratches and rubbed edges, you will need the following materials:

- Paint Pen (Marker)
- Buffer Pad

#### How to Use:

- 1) Shake Marker Thoroughly
- 2) Depress Tip\* on Test Panel or Cardboard
  - \*Careful not to flood the tip.
- 3) Apply to Scratched Area with Smooth Strokes
- 4) Allow Several Minutes to Dry Thoroughly
- 5) Remove Excess Paint from Pen with Buffer Pad

## **Small Defects & Open Joints**

- Fill Stick
- Application Card

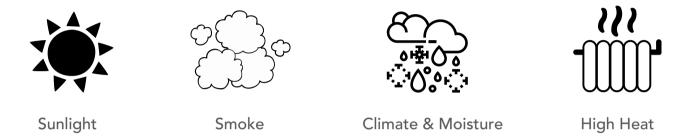
#### How to Use:

- 1) Gently Fill in Desired Area with Fill Stick
  - Stroke in the same direction of scratches.
  - Stroke in the same direction of woodgrain for worn areas.
- 2) Remove Excess Product with Application Card Until Surface is Smooth

#### **The Elements**

The environment surrounding your cabinetry can impact the overall life of the cabinet and its finish. With consistent exposure, over time, these external factors can alter or affect the appearance of your cabinetry. It is important to pay a special mind to these factors to extend the life of your cabinetry.

These factors include, but are not limited to:



#### **Sunlight**

Constant exposure to direct sunlight can cause unreversible unwanted effects to your cabinetry over time.

US Cabinet Depot applies UV protecting agents in all paints and stains as a part of the finishing process, but prolonged exposure to direct sunlight can permanently alter the finish on your cabinetry by fading or darkening the finish. To prevent fading and discoloration, utilize window coverings to help block sunlight and protect your cabinetry.

#### **Smoke**

Smoke from cooking or tobacco can discolor your cabinetry if continued exposure is present.

If your cabinets are constantly exposed to smoke, be sure to properly ventilate the area to prevent smoke penetration to the cabinet finish.

## **High Heat**

The self-cleaning feature on ovens generates more heat than normal cooking. The heat that escapes from the oven during the self-cleaning process can damage the cabinets.

To minimize the risk of cabinet damages remove cabinet doors and drawers closest to the oven before using its self-cleaning feature.

#### **Climate & Moisture**

#### **Climate**

Humidity and excessively dry atmospheres in the home are not friendly environments for your cabinetry. Wood naturally expands and contracts. High humidity can increase the expanding and drier conditions can increase the contraction.

Over time, if these conditions are not controlled within the home, it can increase the likelihood of swelling and cracks within the joints of the door and drawer fronts and the frame.



Temperature: 60° to 80° Relative Humidity (RH): 30% to 60%

#### **Moisture**

It is imperative to keep your cabinets free from unwanted moisture. If your cabinets become wet, dry them immediately with a clean lint-free microfiber cloth.

Never drape damp rags over your cabinetry as this can cause permanent damage to the doors and drawers, and be sure to keep them free of steam from household appliances (dishwashers, pressure cookers, etc.).

