

## Cabinet Care and Cleaning Tips

Thank you for purchasing your cabinetry from Camrose Custom Cabinets Inc. We take great pride in building quality products designed to last for many years under normal use. With some simple care and cleaning, you will be able to enjoy your cabinets for years to come. We have prepared these tips to help you maintain the beauty of your professionally finished cabinets.

### **Initial Cleaning After Installation**

Building or renovation a home or office is a messy, dirty, dusty job. Cleaning up your cabinets before you “move in” takes some extra care and attention. If you have professional cleaners to do the job, please ensure they follow these basic steps, or if you are doing it yourself, you can make sure you do it correctly to avoid potential damage.

- If your cabinets have a very heavy coating of construction dust, you may wish to first blow the worst of it off using low pressure air from an air compressor. The interior of the cabinets or drawer boxes can be vacuumed to remove any excess material; however, do not vacuum the outside of the cabinets even with a soft brush as this could scratch the finish.
- The exterior finished surfaces of the cabinets need to be cleaned carefully with a damp, soft cloth to remove the dust. The cloth should be cleaned/rinsed frequently to remove dirt so as to not scratch the finished surfaces. If desired, you can use a mild dish detergent solution. Do not use excessive amounts of water and be sure to dry the cabinets with a soft, dry cloth so as to not leave excess water on the surface for an extended period of time.
- Depending on the amount of dust that is built up, you may find that you need to clean them more than once. There is no need to use any other polish or waxing products to restore the factory finish – these products tend to build up and cause a hazy, streaky or yellowed appearance.

### **Everyday Cleaning**

Your kitchen cabinets are more susceptible to grease and food spills than most other areas of your home. To prevent the build up of weekly dust and grease we recommend cleaning your cabinets regularly. Use a dampened soft cotton cloth to clean your cabinets. You can use a mild detergent with warm water on stubborn stains if necessary. Also, keep in mind these tips:

- Spills and watermarks should be promptly wiped clean.
- Never hang damp or wet dish towels over cabinet doors or drawers. This moisture can cause permanent damage to cabinets including peeling and discoloration of the finish.
- Always wipe in the direction of the grain.
- Stronger products, including abrasive cleaners, scouring pads or powdered cleansers, are not recommended as they may discolor, mark or scratch your cabinet's finish.
- It is important to dry all surfaces with a clean lint free cloth after cleaning.
- Don't forget to clean the tops of your cabinets as well.

### **Avoid These Cleaning Products**

Abrasive cleaning products will damage your cabinet's finish so we recommend avoiding the use of these types of products:

- Harsh chemicals
- Steel wool, scouring pads, and abrasive powdered cleaning products
- Sponges or dishtowels as these items may contain remnants of food and grease residue that could damage your cabinets
- Bleach or products containing bleach
- Ammonia or products containing ammonia
- Waxing or polishing products that are silicone based
- Nail polish removers, paint thinners, mineral spirits or any other solvent-based or petroleum-based products



- Cleaners that contain colorants or dyes
- Flammable and toxic spray polishes that contain petroleum-based products

Commercial cleaning products are not recommended to clean and protect your cabinets; however if you do use them, you should always read the label to be sure it can be used on the finish. Follow directions exactly. You should always test on the inside of a door to make sure it will not harm your cabinet's finish.

***Avoid Excessive Heat, Moisture and Dryness***

Heat generated from self-cleaning appliances is much greater than during normal cooking. Camrose Custom Cabinets recommends carefully removing any doors and drawers from cabinets adjacent to or directly above or below the appliance before beginning the cleaning cycle. While this type of damage is rare, removing the doors and drawers will help prevent any possible damage to the finish or surface of your cabinets. You should not mount or use heat-producing appliances including, coffee makers, kettles, or toaster ovens beneath cabinets. These items can generate damaging levels of heat and moisture. Moisture and humidity levels in the home can play a major role in the life of your cabinets. Normal room temperature levels and a relative humidity level of 30% - 35% are recommended.

***Avoid Excessive Sunlight***

Exposure to strong light sources will cause natural wood products to darken over time. Excessive exposure to sunlight will also cause thermofoil and painted surfaces to fade. It is important to note that such changes are irreversible.

***Metal Hinges and Drawer Slides***

Lubrication of moving parts including hinges and drawer guides is not necessary.

***Mirrors***

Avoid cleaners that contain sodium hydrochloride, phosphoric acid or sulfur. You should always apply cleaner to your cloth instead of directly onto the mirror. Never allow the cleaner to run or drip into the frame molding.

***Fixing Nicks and Scratches***

Touch-up kits for most finishes are available for purchase from many popular building stores or professional kits are available for purchase through Camrose Custom Cabinets. We can also provide you with a small container of color matched stain for an additional charge. For use of all these products, we strongly recommend that you try a small amount in an inconspicuous location to ensure a reasonable match before attempting to fix a highly visible location.

