



Care & Cleaning Guide

WoodHarbor finishes begin with a protective catalytic sealer engineered for superior adhesion, moisture resistance, and sealing performance. The sealer is oven-cured for lasting durability, then meticulously hand-sanded to create a satiny-smooth surface for the topcoat. A tough, catalytic conversion varnish is applied using an airless spray system and oven-baked to perfection. This advanced, oven-cured conversion varnish finish delivers a rich, beautiful luster that resists moisture and stands up to virtually all household chemicals.

STAIN AND ENAMEL

Woodharbor products require a very minimal maintenance program to maintain their beautiful finish. A Woodharbor finish is specially formulated to 'flex' with the wood to create an especially durable finish. Woodharbor's finish is formulated with a 'catalyst' to create a very strong bond with the wood surface and with UV inhibitors to reduce natural mellowing of the finish.

Woodharbor recommends the following care and cleaning program:

- Remove construction/installation dust from all surfaces with a soft cloth.
- Clean new cabinetry with a soft cloth and water and mild dish soap. Dry with a soft, lint-free cloth.
- Dust or polish Woodharbor cabinetry often with a clean, soft cloth. Always wipe with the direction of the grain.
- Clean up spills as soon as possible - blot rather than wipe.
- Do not clean cabinets or doors with harsh cleansers, detergents, commercial cleaners or abrasives. Do not use wax or silicone-based polishes.

Thermofoil

For regular care and cleaning always use a cotton cloth or non-abrasive sponge.

Option 1: Wipe with a damp cloth or sponge with mild dish soap.

Option 2: Wipe with a damp cloth or sponge using 50/50 mix of water and Simple Green®. (Simple Green works well on oily or tacky surfaces)

Cleaning Stains (Infrequent Care) Always use a cotton cloth or non-abrasive sponge

Step 1: Using a damp cloth or sponge with a 50/50 mix of water and Simple Green, scrub lightly for 10 or 20 strokes. This should remove most stains. If stain persists, move on to Step 2 and if necessary, Step 3.

Step 2: Using a damp cloth or sponge with Buckeye Workout®, standard Fantastik® (S.C. Johnson), or standard Formula 409® (The Clorox Co.), lightly wipe for 10 to 20 strokes. Buckeye Workout is a commercial cleaner and readily available from a local distributor.

Call Buckeye International at 314-291-1900 to find a local distributor.

Note: Buckeye Workout contains water and propylene glycol phenyl ether.

Step 3: Place a cloth or sponge damp with 70% Isopropyl Alcohol on top of the stain for 30 minutes. After 30 minutes, remove the cloth or sponge and wipe. This should remove makeup, ball-point ink, and other stubborn stains. If stain persists, repeat Step 3 until stain is removed.

Disinfecting Thermofoil Surfaces A mixture of 10% bleach, 90% water can be used as a disinfectant on most thermofoil surfaces. Before using the mixture on an entire surface, be sure to test it on an inconspicuous spot.

Cleaners to Avoid:

- Any abrasive cleaner
- Most solvent-based cleaners and harsh chemicals such as sink & toilet bowl cleaners
- Any cleaner in combination with a brush
- Cleaners containing ammonia
- Baking Soda If a harsh chemical is spilled on a thermofoil surface, wipe it up immediately. Then wash the surface with soap and water and rinse several times.



GLOSS FOIL FINISHES

It is important to acquaint your customers with the characteristics and special care requirements they can expect with high-gloss finishes.

Please review the following information about the installation and care of high-gloss materials with your customers:

- Gloss Foil cabinetry is shipped with a protective peel coat provided by the manufacturer. This protects the surface throughout manufacturing, shipping, and installation. Remove the peel coat only after the entire installation process is complete; carefully lifting the edge of the peel coat with your fingernail and pulling away from the door (refrain from using a knife or other sharp tools that will scratch the surface).
- High-gloss material may exhibit barely perceptible ridges or indentations.
- Foils are wrapped over corners and edges for seamless color over the face and edges of the door. This can result in a slightly pinched or stretched appearance where the foil is compressed or stretched to wrap a corner.
- When the peel coat is removed there may be traces of glue residue along the edgebanding that should be carefully wiped away with mineral spirits on a clean, soft cloth.
- All high-gloss materials need careful attention during installation and in daily use.
- Use a soft clean cloth for cleaning and dusting and never use cleansers with abrasives that will create surface scratches. Surface scratches are not reason for product replacement.
- Failure to follow the aforementioned instructions voids the product warranty

NOIR

A protective peel coat is applied at the top and bottom surfaces. Do not expose peel coat to direct sunlight before removal. Remove promptly after installing cabinet but prior to mounting decorative hardware. Clean with a damp microfiber cloth and mild soap if needed. Noir is resistant to most chemicals and solvent-based cleaners, but harsh chemicals should be avoided. Do not use brushes or scouring pads.

CRYSTAL

A protective peel coat is applied to the top of the surface, as well as the edgebanded sides. Do not expose peel coat to direct sunlight before removal. Remove promptly after installing cabinet but prior to mounting hardware. Clean with a damp microfiber cloth and mild soap if needed. Crystal has a very hard, scratch-resistant finish. Avoid abrasive cleaners, solvent-based cleaners and harsh chemicals. Do not use paper towels, brushes or scouring pads.

SHADE

A protective peel coat is applied to the top of the matte surface. Do not expose peel coat to direct sunlight before removal. Remove promptly after installing cabinet but prior to mounting decorative hardware. Clean with a damp microfiber cloth and mild soap if needed. While the surface is scratch-resistant, it should never be dry-wiped. Avoid abrasive cleaners, solvent-based cleaners and harsh chemicals. Do not use paper towels, brushes or scouring pads.

BRILLIANT

A protective peel coat is applied to the top of the high-gloss surface, as well as the edgebanded sides. Do not expose the peel coat to direct sunlight before removal. Remove promptly after installing cabinet but prior to mounting hardware. Clean with a damp microfiber cloth and mild soap if needed. Do not dry-wipe the acrylic finish. Avoid abrasive cleaners, solvent-based cleaners and, harsh chemicals. Do not use paper towels, brushes or scouring pads. After cleaning, Sealing Agent restores the high quality appearance.



EFFECTS OF MOISTURE IN WOOD

Woodharbor takes great care in selecting properly kiln dried woods with a 5% - 8% moisture content to ensure stability in climate controlled homes. Woodharbor Custom Cabinetry performs reliably and beautifully when humidity levels are properly maintained (normal minor fluctuations are expected but uncontrolled extremes are likely to cause problems). Please note the Woodharbor Warranty does not cover product concerns related to improper humidity/ moisture levels. Under normal conditions, all wood products contain some moisture.

Wood is a hygroscopic material and it readily exchanges moisture with the environment. This is true of ALL wood products, whether they are raw or finished. Although a finish will slow this process, wood will regardless react to changes in humidity. When humidity conditions are high, wood will absorb moisture and swell (or expand). In low humidity conditions, wood will release moisture and shrink (or contract). Wood will not change size or shape unless its moisture content changes due to humidity conditions of the environment. (In response to high humidity, wood primarily changes in width and thickness.)

As normal minor fluctuations in humidity occur, the dimensional response of the wood will be insignificant. To avoid problems, it is recommended that relative humidity be maintained within a range of 25% - 50%. Uncontrolled extremes (above 80% or below 20%) are likely to cause problems. Wood products perform successfully, as they have for centuries, when correctly used within a proper environment. Problems associated with dimensional change are usually the result of improper humidity conditions during site storage, installation or use.

Geographical Location	Interior Use	
	Optimum Moisture Content of Wood	Indoor Relative Humidity Requirements to hold Optimum Moisture Content
Most of U.S.	5-10%	25-55%
Southern Coastal Areas of the U.S.	8-13%	43-70%
Dry Southwestern U.S.	4-9%	17-50%

POINTS TO CONSIDER

- The density of the wood can affect how much or how little it reacts to changes in humidity. More dense species (Maple or Hickory) will expand or contract more than 'softer' species like Cherry.
- Mitered doors need low, stable moisture conditions to perform properly. Woodharbor manufactures mitered doors with the industry's number one joinery techniques for strength and durability (finger joined, dowelled and glued). However, exposure to very high or low humidity levels will cause wood movement which will result in either joint separation or stile/rail bowing. With proper maintenance of humidity conditions, Mitered doors will perform reliably and beautifully. (Please note painted finishes tend to magnify joint separation and should be used with caution on Mitered doors.)
- Effects of moisture may include panel expansion/ contraction, joint separation (especially noticeable on Mitered doors), bowing of the stile or rail and/or expansion/contraction of the stile/rail.
- Wood products located in humid climates are especially susceptible to expansion due to moisture. Product failure due to high moisture conditions are not covered under the Woodharbor warranty.
- Regardless of location, products installed in non-air conditioned homes are especially susceptible to moisture concerns. Winter and vacation homes should maintain some form of climate control even during off season.
- Sometimes doors may swell and then bind upon installation. Upon activation of the climate control, doors should resume their original dimension. For this reason, Woodharbor does not recommend trimming or 'shaving' the door edges. Trimmed doors are not covered under the Woodharbor warranty. Also, take care to control humidity conditions even during storage and installation.
- Traditional doors with 5-piece construction (stiles, rails and panel) have been engineered to allow some normal expansion and contraction of the panel.