BLOOM & JOHNSON
MILLWORKS

Wood Care & Maintenance Guide

This document provides guidance for the long-term care of solid wood products, drawing on established best practices used by specialty hardwood suppliers and fabricators. The emphasis is placed on finish preservation, routine maintenance, and proper use, which together determine how well a wood surface performs and ages over time. In normal indoor environments, consistent finish care is far more influential than minor fluctuations in temperature or humidity.

Finish Preservation as the Primary Control

Solid wood surfaces are protected by their finish. When that protective layer is maintained, wood resists staining, excessive moisture absorption, and premature wear. Most failures occur when surfaces are misused, cleaned improperly, or neglected. Routine and simple maintenance should be understood as standard upkeep, an integral part of owning solid wood products.

Hardwax Oil Finishes

Hardwax oil finishes penetrate the wood fibers while also leaving a thin protective layer at the surface. This system enhances the natural appearance of the wood and allows it to be easily renewed over time. Rather than cracking or peeling, hardwax oil finishes wear gradually, signaling when reconditioning is needed by showing dullness in color.

OSMO PolyX Hardwax Oil, composed of natural plant-based oils and natural waxes, enables the product to soak into the wood and bond with the wood fibers instead of sitting on top of the wood and creating a plastic layer that detracts from the natural wood feel. The PolyX line is more durable and water-resistant, and with gentle cleaning and maintenance, provides a longer service life.

General care consists of dusting or wiping with a slightly damp cloth, followed by drying. Harsh cleaners, aggressive scrubbing, or excessive water should be avoided. Spills from coffee or wine should be wiped up with a clean towel, and any residue removed with warm soapy water, making sure not to leave any water on the surface.

Reconditioning is typically required with time, or whenever the surface begins to appear dry, lighter in color, or less water-repellent. Reconditioning involves cleaning the surface thoroughly,

applying the same oil used or a wood conditioner from the same brand, allowing it to absorb, and removing any excess by buffing. If the surface looks faded over time, refreshing can be done by applying Osmo Maintenance Oil or Liquid Wax Cleaner.

The wood and OSMO PolyX are designed to age beautifully. With simple cleaning and occasional refreshing, wood surfaces stay protected and natural-looking for many years, without the need for refinishing.

Please do not:

- Use ammonia, vinegar, or harsh cleaning products
- Use steam to clean
- Drag heavy objects over the surface
- Let any liquids sit on the surface

2K Spray Polyurethane (Catalyzed Finishes)

2K spray polyurethane finishes are high-performance, spray film finishes, designed for durability and chemical resistance. These finishes create a continuous surface barrier that protects the wood beneath and requires minimal ongoing maintenance.

Care is limited to regular cleaning with natural cleaners or warm soapy water, followed promptly by drying. Abrasive cleaners, polishes, or pads should not be used, as they can dull or damage the surface. Areas of concentrated use—such as around sinks or table edges—should be inspected periodically. Because this is a film finish, repairs generally require professional refinishing rather than spot treatment.

Mineral Oil Finishes for Butcher Block, Cutting Boards, and Serving Boards

Mineral oil finishes are commonly used on butcher block countertops, cutting boards, and serving boards, where food safety is a priority. This system does not form a surface film; instead, protection depends entirely on keeping the wood fibers saturated.

New pieces should be oiled frequently during the initial break-in period, typically weekly for the first month. Afterward, monthly oiling is sufficient in most cases, though frequency should increase if the surface appears dry or absorbs water quickly. Oil should be applied generously, allowed to penetrate for several hours or overnight, and excess wiped away. Standing water should never be allowed to remain on the surface.

If the grain feels raised, lightly sand with 180 grit paper, wipe clean, and reapply.

Cleaning and Everyday Use

All solid wood surfaces should be cleaned using non-abrasive methods. Dry microfiber cloths are suitable for routine dusting, while a lightly damp cloth may be used for spills or residue. Surfaces should always be dried immediately after cleaning. Cleaners containing ammonia, bleach, vinegar, silicone, or abrasive compounds should be avoided, as they can degrade finishes and dry out the wood.

For cutting boards and oiled butcher block tops only, wipe fruits and vegetables with a damp cloth before and after use. For meat, fish, and dairy, wipe the surface before preparation and then clean afterward with soap and water or full-strength white vinegar, then wipe the surface dry. White vinegar is an effective disinfectant, as is 3% hydrogen peroxide. To remove odors such as onions or garlic, sprinkle salt on the surface and rub with lemon or lime wedges, letting it sit for 2–3 minutes before wiping clean. Baking soda may also be used to neutralize odors. Always allow the surface to dry completely before re-seasoning with oil.

Protective habits significantly extend the life of the finish. The use of coasters on wood tops is a good practice. Trivets act as a heat barrier and are necessary to protect finishes from hot cookware. Hot cookware should never be placed directly on wood surfaces, and sharp or abrasive objects should not be dragged across finished tops.