



MELAMINE

CARE FOR MELAMINE SHELVING SURFACES

CLEANING TIPS

To clean the surface, use a damp cloth or sponge and a mild soap and detergent. Difficult stains such as coffee and tea can be removed using a mild household cleaner and baking soda; mixing to achieve a paste consistency. Use a stiff nylon bristle brush, scrubbing (approx. 15-20 strokes) the affected area. Do not scrub so as to mar (damage, scratch) the surface finish.

For flat surfaces, stubborn stains that resist any of the above cleaning methods may require the use of undiluted household bleach or nail polish remover. Use a cotton ball saturated with bleach or nail polish remover (acetone), gently rub the stain for up to two minutes. Rinse thoroughly with warm water and wipe dry using a soft cloth. Do not use these products on or near the edge for it will damage the edge.

CAUTIONS

Acidic or abrasive cleaners can damage laminate surfaces; do not use them. These products can quickly damage the PVC edge band as well. Drain cleaners containing lye will permanently damage the laminate surface. If you spill a drain cleaner, wipe it up immediately and rinse several times with water. Hair, textile and food dyes can cause permanent stains. If dye should happen to spill, wipe it up immediately with dishwashing detergent or an all-purpose cleaner. Wipe spills away promptly and rinse several times with water. Rust removers contain harsh chemicals, which will quickly cause permanent damage. If a spill occurs, wipe off all residue immediately, wash thoroughly with soapy water and rinse several times. Steel wool and other abrasive pads will damage the melamine face. Do not use them for cleaning and don't store steel wool pads on your shelving; the metal can rust and leave stains. Toilet bowl cleaners contain harsh chemicals that can cause permanent damage. If spills occur, wipe up immediately, wash surface with soapy water and rinse several times.

The cleaners listed below can cause damage to the surface of the melamine:

- Hydrochloric Acid Muriatic Acid
- Hydrogen Chloride
- Sulfuric Acid Oleic Acid
- Oleum
- Hydrofluoric Acid Rust Remover
- Phosphoric Acid Rust Remover
- Sodium Hydroxide Caustic Soda
- Caustic
- Lye
- Soda Lye
- Pumice (abrasive)

Remember, sharp objects can damage the surface of the shelving and the edge, marring its beauty and lowering wear and stain resistance. Although faces are somewhat resistant to scratch and marring, the face can be damaged, even under normal use.

DUSTING

Dust cabinets frequently with a soft lint-free cloth. You can dampen the cloth slightly with water or spray-type dust remover.

SPILLS

Clean spills immediately. Use a clean cloth and mild soap if necessary. Wipe dry with a clean soft cloth.

GENERAL

Be sure to clean up spills and any standing water (such as condensation from a glass or bowl) immediately. Pay special attention to the areas around your sink, range, dishwasher, toe spaces and baseboards. Use a blotting action rather than a wiping action. Be sure to apply cleaning products directly to the clean cloth you are using. Never apply directly to the surface of the melamine that you are cleaning. Be sure to lift objects – do not drag across the surface. Be sure to avoid extreme in room humidity. Too high or too low humidity can cause the wood to warp or the glue used in applying the banding to fail. Be sure to avoid extreme changes in room temperature. Be sure to use pads, cloth or felt to protect surfaces from plastics, rubber, hot dishes, beverages, bookends, flowerpots and vases. Be sure to use protective pads when writing with a ballpoint pen. Be sure to make minor repairs while they are still small. Be sure to treat your cabinetry as if it were furniture. The cabinets are constructed with the same laminates and wood as your furniture. They require the same care in order to reward you with long lasting beauty. **Do Not** apply excessive weight or pull down excessively on doors as this may cause them to split at the hinge area and sag. **Do Not** place more than 100 pounds of weight into any drawer as this may cause the bottom to sag or the drawer guides to work improperly. Also, the weight of what is stored in each drawer should be evenly distributed for the best durability. **Do Not** use petroleum distilled polishes on the surface of your cabinetry, as they are often flammable and toxic, and they are seldom ever completely removed. **Do Not** use concentrated detergents on your cabinetry. Harsh detergents, strong soap and self-polishing waxes could have a damaging effect on the finished surface. **Do Not** leave damp or wet cloths draped over cabinet doors. This moisture can cause permanent water damage to the area over time. **Do Not** wipe our cabinetry with a used dishcloth since it could contain traces of grease or detergents. **Do Not** place plastic or rubber objects on a wood finish – their ingredients react with those of the finish. **Do Not** place furniture in direct sunlight. Prolonged exposure to direct sunlight may cause a change in color. **Do Not** let water run off sink to countertops and sink cabinetry. **Do Not** expose the unbanded edges of cabinetry to excessive moisture. Over time, prolonged wetness can result in damage.

HEAT-PRODUCING APPLIANCES

We recommend that you do not mount heat-producing appliances (such as coffeemakers and toaster ovens) beneath cabinets. Excess heat and moisture from these appliances can damage cabinets.

LOADS & WEIGHT LIMITS

Properly installed cabinets can safely support an evenly distributed load of 15 pounds per square foot of shelf, tray and drawer space, up to a maximum of 50 pounds. Be sure that you load all cabinet bottoms, shelves, and trays evenly.

NATURAL AGING PROCESS

As with other natural materials, wood cabinetry will gradually darken or mellow in response to aging, light and UV exposure. Most likely, you'll never notice this subtle aging process unless, in a few years time, you compare your cabinets to brand new ones.

UV EFFECTS

Natural sunlight contains Ultra Violet (UV) light rays that may affect the appearance of your cabinets. Wood species and finishes have been tested so that you may be able to determine the approximate effect that UV rays may have on the cabinetry in your home. The tests used follow the American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) standards for quartz ultra violet light (QUV). The actual results in your home will vary depending on these three factors:

1. Exposure to light (for example, direct from the south, east or west or indirect from the north.
2. The portion of the cabinet that receives the light (top, base, etc.)
3. The wood itself. The finish does not change color, the wood itself will.

With varying exposure to UV rays, and over time, color variations will occur.