

Hardwood Reflections **BUTCHER BLOCK**

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a butcher block?

A butcher block is made of straight cuts of wood referred to as “staves.” These are glued together to form a thick slab that is super stable and sturdy. Hardwood Reflections traditional butcher block style uses finger joints to ensure stability and durability. We also have slab styles that are made of 3-5 slabs for wood glued together. Oftentimes, these styles feature a manufactured live edge.

Is my butcher block waterproof?

Of course not. It’s wood. You still have to watch heat and water. Excessive water can cause big problems. Just keep them wiped off and you’ll be fine. But if you do have a mishap, they can be refinished, which is not something other countertops can brag about.

Can I order a custom piece?

Hardwood Reflections does not currently handle custom jobs. You’ll see all available sizes listed on Home Depot’s website. Our unfinished blocks are DIY blocks. If you are not comfortable, a skilled carpenter or contractor can help you easily! Your imagination is the limit! We’ve had countless customers cut the butcher block to meet their needed size. If you purchased your butcher block in store, you can ask the department manager if they provide this service. If you choose to cut the butcher block yourself, we strongly suggest a new blade ... 60 tooth circular saw blade is recommended.

Can I order from Hardwood Reflections directly?

Hardwood Reflections is a vendor for Home Depot. Our products are offered in Home Depot stores as well as online. At this time, Hardwood Reflections does not take direct orders.

Can you use an under mount sink?

Absolutely! An under mount sink works great with any Hardwood Reflections butcher block. Make sure you treat the wood on the interior of where the sink will set with multiple coats of a food safe lacquer.

Is there a way to repair a dent in my butcher block?

Removing a dent from our butcher blocks is easy! Whether you’ve dropped a heavy object on the butcher block or a dent occurred during delivery or installation, following a 3-step process to remove a dent in your butcher block is easy. Please see the troubleshooting guide listed!

Is staining and sealing necessary?

Staining will only change the color and is optional depending on your taste. It is just for looks and is not necessary. Sealing, however, is definitely necessary. This prevents against warping and cracking. We

highly recommend sealing your block within 3 days of unpacking it to help keep it looking great for years. To be cautious, we list 24 hours on the block instructions.

If you do not seal the wood, it will more than likely dry out and could crack. If you seal with an oil finish, periodic maintenance applications of oil (1-2 times a year) will be needed. Sealing oils may include tung oil, linseed oil, etc. Additionally, you have many options in polyurethane, lacquer, etc. Most importantly, make sure you seal all six sides of the block.

Help! I opened my block, but I'm not ready to begin my project!

If you've opened the plastic and have to delay, keep your block out of the elements lying flat. If you live in an extremely dry or humid area, laying a blanket over the block will help with protection.

How do you seal the butcher block?

You will want to choose a sealant depending on your needs. Is this an area you need to keep food safe? Would you like little to no maintenance? For example, mineral oil is food safe, but will require maintenance. If you plan to cut food directly on your top, you will choose mineral oil. If you like to keep your block looking pristine and opt to use a cutting board, you may want to choose a polyurethane which will not require maintenance. Once you determine your needs, a quick visit with your Home Depot paint specialist can shed some light on what type of sealant you should use. Follow the directions for the specific product you've chosen.

Are these butcher blocks completely solid?

All Hardwood Reflections butcher blocks are 100% solid wood.

Are your stains FDA approved for food preparation?

No, not at this time. If you want a food-safe sealant we suggest mineral oil.

Can Hardwood Reflection butcher blocks be used outdoors?

While outdoor use was not the intended purpose for our blocks, we know that it has been done! The key here is to seal the block so that the elements do not get inside. This causes the wood to warp. Rain, sun, snow and humidity are elements that you need to take into consideration when placing the wood outdoors. We are wood experts, but not necessarily seal experts. This would be a good question for the paint specialists at Home Depot. We assume that they would recommend a marine grade seal of some sort.

What's the difference in the finished and unfinished blocks? What is UV finish?

Finished Butcher Block - Your finished block is ready to install. You may move straight to adding legs for a table or a base for a desk. A lightly soapy rag is all you will need to clean the block. Avoid harsh cleansers. If your block is UV finished, it will not need upkeep. If your block is oiled, additional mineral oil should be added when the block is getting dry, allowing some time to absorb. We do not suggest cutting a UV finished block, as this is a factory finish and will be near impossible to match on the exposed area.

Unfinished Butcher Block - Your unfinished block needs to be finishing within 24 hours of opening the shrink wrap, as stated on the Home Depot website. This is to prevent warping and cracking. If you were unaware of this and have already opened your block, and are not able to finish at this time, please store the block lying flat and cover with something to prevent drying out. A blanket will do nicely.

You will begin by sanding your block, moving with the grain, to a 320 grit, making the block smooth. You may add stain next. Please note that stain is not a necessity. It only changes the look of the block and has no sealing properties. If you choose to stain, please allow the stain to fully cure before sealing your block.

To seal your block, you will choose either an oil or a polyurethane/lacquer. You will never need both. Research the pros and cons of these options to find the product that fits your needs. Following the directions of the product you choose, apply to the block on **ALL SIX SIDES**, creating a seal. Sanding between coats may be necessary. Always, **ALWAYS** follow the directions on the products you choose.