



# **The Homeowner's Guide to Care and Cleaning**

CRAFTSMANSHIP DATING BACK TO 1927

## Wondering how to keep your new cabinets looking beautiful?

We can help! Follow these simple instructions: **Dust them periodically**, keep them **clean** by using a **soft lint-free cloth**, — or a **microfiber cloth** for laminate and high gloss cabinetry—**AND THAT’S IT!**

### Need to fight some grime?

- Usually, a clean, soft cotton cloth —or microfiber cloth for laminate and high gloss cabinetry — dampened with warm water will do the trick!
- For extra grime fighting, a mild solution of dishwashing liquid (not dishwasher products) mixed with fresh, clean, warm water will take care of dirt and grease. 5% dishwashing liquid to 95% water is a good ratio.
- After cleaning your stained or painted cabinets, wipe them down with a clean, damp cloth, and be sure to dry wet/damp surfaces with another clean soft cloth.
- Laminates and high gloss materials **MUST** be dried with a microfiber cloth to avoid scratches.

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### What about splatters and spills?

- Make sure to wipe them up quickly! Then, clean as needed with warm water or the mild dishwashing liquid solution. Prolonged exposure to food, water, and other liquids, as well as grease and oil splatters, can cause permanent damage or discoloration to your cabinet’s finish.
- Don’t forget to dry after cleaning, using a soft, clean cloth for stained and painted cabinetry. Dry laminates and high gloss cabinets with a microfiber cloth.

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### Glassdoor care.

Clean the glass by spraying an ammonia-free glass cleaner on a clean, soft, lint-free cloth or paper towel, and wiping down the glass. Don’t spray glass cleaner directly on the glass to avoid seepage behind mullions or dividers, which could cause damage to the wood or other materials.

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### Should I polish or wax?

Neither! Your cabinets don’t require waxing and we don’t recommend it. Over time, waxing and polishing compounds may build up on cabinet surfaces forming a hazy, streaked, or yellowed appearance. Wax build-up is really hard to remove — no one has time for that!

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### Uh-oh. I have a nick on my wood or painted cabinetry.

- Touch-up kits are available to help hide surface damage on cabinetry. Your cabinet retailer can facilitate the purchase of the color-matched touch-up kit for your specific cabinetry.
- The kit will contain instructions on what to do — the touch-up pen will hide minor blemishes, while the tinted putty stick will fill deeper scratches, gouges, or nicks.

## Other things to be aware of.

- Don't drape damp dishtowels or clothes over your cabinet doors. Moisture can cause permanent damage, like peeling and discoloration to the cabinet finish. Dry wet surfaces immediately using a soft, clean cloth.
    - More on the topic of moisture: Wood will expand and contract based upon the amount of moisture in the home.
    - Maintaining a consistent temperature and humidity level is key to cabinet health.
    - Please refer to the Cabinet Warranty and The Homeowners Guide to Humidification sheets for details on proper humidity and temperature ranges.
  - The heat from the self-cleaning oven feature is much greater than normal cooking temperatures, and could potentially damage surrounding cabinetry. While it is a rare occurrence, minimize the risk of cabinet damage by removing cabinet doors and drawers closest to the oven before using the self-cleaning feature.
  - Direct sunlight tends to darken the color of natural wood products, with the exception of walnut, which will lighten. Painted wood surfaces and laminates, including high gloss, are also suspect to fading or discoloration. Draperies or blinds are the best defense to shield cabinetry from direct sunlight.
    - Additionally, don't clean laminates and high gloss materials in direct sunlight.
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## Products to avoid.

- Harsh detergents, strong soaps, multi-purpose and abrasive cleaning products:
  - Tub and sink cleaners
  - Scouring powders and scouring pads
  - Steel wool or self-polishing waxes
- Sponges or dishcloths. They could contain particles that could scratch your cabinets, as well as food, oil residue, or remnants of harsh cleaning solutions.
- Paper towels or similar products especially for high gloss cabinetry, due to the ease of scratching
- Solvent-based or petroleum-based products such as mineral spirits, nail-polish removers, or paint thinners.
- Ammonia, bleach, or cleaning products that contain either ammonia or bleach.
- Silicone-based cleaning, waxing, or polishing products.

# HOW TO TOUCH UP CABINETS

## We make fixing the little things easy

Remodeling is a messy business and, occasionally, there will be a casualty – a scratch in your new cabinet. Because life happens to all of us, Masterbrand provides a custom touch-up kit with most orders. It's great for covering a little scratch that may occur during installation, as well as those that might occur years down the road from a rogue hockey stick, Barbie's fingernail, or a butter knife.

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## Finish Touch-Up Kit

The kitchen is the central hub of most homes and, as a result, often takes a beating. Inevitably, a cabinet finish will be inadvertently scratched, possibly even during installation. Luckily, most MasterBrand orders come with a customer care kit which typically includes a fill stick and a marker/touch-up pen. Be sure to have this kit handy to keep your cabinets looking beautiful.

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## Fill Stick

The fill stick is similar to a crayon or putty bar and can be used to fill in nail holes, deep scratches, cuts, or gouges. Simply apply the fill stick with pressure to ensure it fully fills the defect. Excess can be carefully removed and smoothed to match the surface with a plastic scraper or even an old credit card. The area should then be wiped with a clean, dry, lint-free cloth.

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## Marker/Touch-Up Pen

Use the marker/pen to repair scratches, excessive wear marks, and edges where raw wood is exposed such as miter joints where two pieces of molding meet. Shake well before using. Remove the cap and simply run the tip over the defect. It may take several light coats to conceal the damage completely. Excess can be removed by lightly applying some mineral spirits on a clean, dry, lint-free cloth. Be sure to cap the pen following each use to prevent the felt tip from drying out.

## ADJUSTING CABINETS

Stuff happens. This you can count on! From time to time, your kitchen cabinets **may require adjustment** to ensure **proper alignment and function**. Keep a **Phillip's head** and **slotted screwdriver** available to make these **simple adjustments**.

### Decorative Hardware and Hinges

- Prior to installing decorative hardware, adjust all doors and drawers to ensure proper alignment.
- Loose decorative hardware – Your hardware can become loose from frequent use. Simply use the appropriate screwdriver based on the screw head type to re-tighten any loose decorative hardware by turning the screw clockwise.
- Loose door hinges – Use a Phillips head screwdriver to tighten any door hinges that might have come loose. Locate the screws used to fasten the hinge to the face frame and tighten by turning clockwise.

### Door Alignment and Function

- Doors can be adjusted up and down by slightly loosening the screws used to fasten the hinges to the face frame. Once the screws are loose, move the door to its proper location and hold it in place while you re-tighten the screws. Be aware that, sometimes, screws are hidden beneath a cap that will first need to be removed prior to adjustment.
- Most doors can be adjusted side to side to close or open the gaps between doors. Use a screwdriver to adjust the screw typically found on the hinge arm that attaches the cup portion found in the door to the plate found on the face frame. Adjust the screw and close the door to view the adjustment made. Fine-tuning this adjustment may take a few tries.
- Most doors can also be adjusted in or out to bring the door closer or further away from the face frame. Use a screwdriver

to adjust the screw that is typically found on the hinge plate towards the inside of the cabinet.

### Drawer Alignment and Function

Most MBCI cabinet brands use drawer slide hardware that is adjustable. If you pull out a drawer and do not see any visible slide hardware, this indicates the use of under mount hardware that can be adjusted. Height can be adjusted on both sides by positioning yourself to see the underside of the drawer box to locate the slider tab on the drawer's locking device. Once located, slide the tab towards the back of the drawer to raise that side of the drawer.

### Adjustable Shelves

Adjustable shelves can easily be adapted to accommodate different heights of cabinet contents. Simply remove the shelf by lifting one side off the shelf clips (note: some brands require you to press in a retainer tab built into the shelf clip while lifting). Remove the shelf clips by twisting and pulling outward. Plug the shelf clips into the desired location and replace the adjustable shelf.

### Roll Out Tray

Some brands feature roll trays that are adjustable in the applied cabinet. Empty the roller tray and remove them by fully extending the tray and then reaching on the underside to disengage the locking devices. Re-adjust the roll tray wood suspension system to the desired location. Re-install the roll tray by pulling out the slides and then sliding the roll tray box back onto the slides until they engage.