

## How to Care for Your Wood Surface

Solid wood countertops and butcher blocks require care specific to the type of finish applied. Both finishes are susceptible to damage from heat so be sure to keep hot pans, pots, and other items off your wood countertop.

### *Food safe mineral oil -*

Surfaces with this finish will need to be reoiled on a regular basis to protect the integrity of the countertop and to protect against water intrusion and staining. Typically, a reapplication of oil is required every one to two months and should be done as soon as you



notice the surface looking "dry". Simply flood the surface with mineral oil (available at drug stores), let it soak into the wood for a few minutes, and wipe dry. Be sure to safely dispose of oily rags as they can self-combust.

Spills should be wiped up immediately and liquids should not be allowed to stand on the surface for any extended time.

Clean with warm, soapy water and wipe dry. A small amount of bleach or vinegar may be added to increase cleaning power.

Any imperfections - stains, dents, etc. - can be sanded out and the top made to look new again.

To do so use 150 grit sandpaper on the affected area (being sure to sand in the direction of the grain) and reoil to make look like new.

### *Permanent finish -*

Our permanent finish is a maintenance-free product that is water-proof and resistant to most household chemicals and foods that typically stain. Special care much be taken in the first month of use. The finish has not fully cured and will be more susceptible to damage. Use only soapy water to clean your countertop during this period.

Clean with warm, soapy water and wipe dry. Household cleaners may be used after the first month.

Do not chop on a countertop with this finish.

## Our Warranty

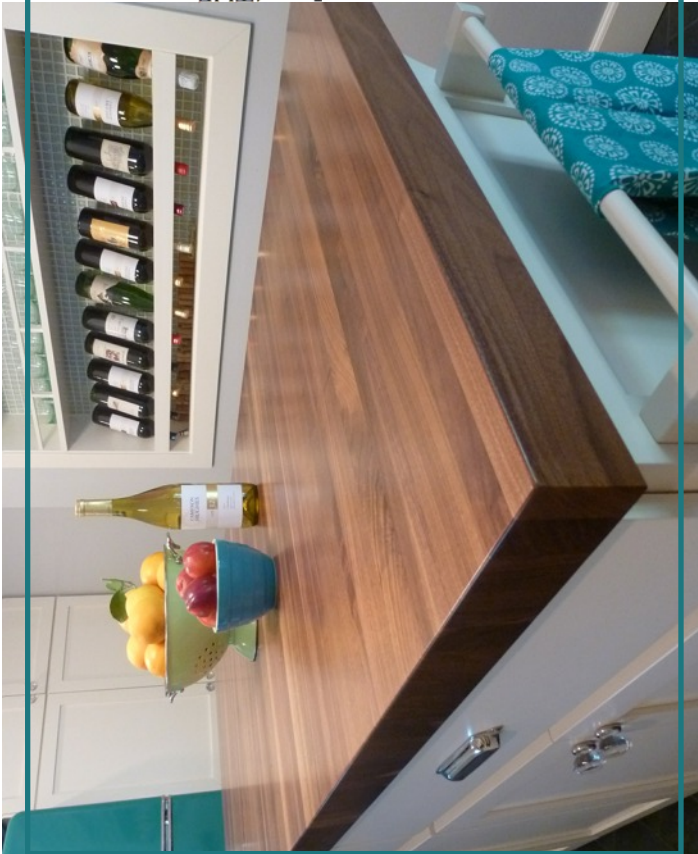
Our wood countertops and butcher blocks are built for a lifetime of enjoyment and use and come with a lifetime warranty against any manufacturing mistake. This guarantee does not cover the finish, which must be maintained and not abused. Also, we will not guarantee wood surfaces that are installed in unconditioned spaces, or spaces that are subjected to excessive humidity or dryness. Furthermore, we are not responsible for improper care, use, or installation. We reserve the right to qualify all claims and will not be liable for associated costs that include, but are not limited to, transportation, labor, and other charges related to the wood surface.



Made in America - Guaranteed for Life  
[www.CustomwoodCountertops.com](http://www.CustomwoodCountertops.com)



## Custom Wood Countertop and Butcher Block - Installation and Care Manual





### Installing Your Wood Countertop

Proper installation of your new wood countertop will ensure that it will provide you with a lifetime of use and enjoyment. The following installation procedures will be sufficient for the majority of wood surface applications. If your application won't allow you to follow this process, then please call us to review acceptable alternative installations. Failure to follow these installation instructions will void the warranty and could lead to surface irregularities, warping, cracking, and/or splitting.

1. Proper countertop installation begins with proper cabinet installation. Make sure that the cabinets are flat and level. For bar top or raised countertop applications, please place and secure all corbels, decorative legs, or brackets prior to installing your wood countertop.

2. Drill 3/4" to 1" holes in your cabinet stretchers at the front and rear stretcher every 24" and within 4" of all sides (where applicable). The stretchers vary by manufacturer but are typically 3" - 4" wide boards that span the cabinet width. Alternatively, your cabinets may be equipped with mounting blocks that

run diagonally in the corners. The procedure is the same for these.

3. Position your countertop in place. Make sure you double-check your overhangs so the surface is properly aligned. For countertops that butt to walls - any trimming or fine tuning necessary to follow wall undulations should be done now and test fitted before securing your top.

4. With your countertop in proper position, pre-drill holes for fasteners in the wood countertop (from underneath - typically, a 1/8" drill bit will work). Make sure you go through the holes in the cabinet stretchers, as this is where the countertop will connect to the cabinets. The fasteners used should penetrate the countertop by at least 3/4". Take precautions to make sure you do not pre-drill too deeply and come through the surface of the countertop. Proper measuring and setting of your drill bit will protect against this.

5. With your fastener holes drilled, add 1 1/4" or larger washers to your screws and tighten. Do not over-tighten the screws as this will not allow for seasonal wood movement. Your installation is complete.

### Special Installation Considerations

Never use glue or liquid nails to secure your wood countertop. It will not let the countertop expand and contract with seasonal movement and could cause catastrophic failures.

For installations over dishwashers, microwaves, warming drawers, and/or wine fridges - a heat shield must be installed to protect the wood countertop from heat and steam. Aluminum sheet metal, trim coil, or speciality products such as Reflectix© should be used.

Dabs of silicone caulking (100 % silicone with no latex) may be used for applications where it is not an option to screw down your countertop. Do not run a continuous bead of caulking, as this will interfere with seasonal movement.

Slight warping may develop during transportation or as your countertop acclimates to a new environment. Typically, these undulations can be alleviated during installation. If unsuccessful with fasteners, warped tops should be allowed to acclimate for 2-3 days. The best practice is to prop the countertop up so air movement will be equal on the top and bottom side.

### A Word About Seasonal Movement

Seasonal wood movement is unstoppable and must be accounted for. Much care has been used in the storage of raw wood, fabrication, and transportation of your custom wood surface to minimize these affects once properly installed in your home. However, your top will continue to expand and contract with the seasons forever, so be aware of this fact and make sure to follow our installation procedure.

***Please contact us if you do not understand the installation instructions, or are in need of additional help. Failure to properly install your wood countertop will void the warranty.***

