

Apollo Wood Worktops Care & Maintenance

Care & Maintenance Kit

Important: Please read the information carefully and ensure you keep these instructions for future reference.

Looking after Wood

Solid wood worksurfaces not only look very attractive and exude quality; they are naturally hardwearing and will withstand the rigours of everyday use.

Timber is the original kitchen worksurface. Since those early days' technology has moved on apace, in the kitchen, with hi-tec equipment being the order of the day, and yet timber has never been more popular as a work surface than it is today due to its natural good looks and feel.

A major disadvantage of the wood worksurface, in the past, was the amount of time needed to maintain it. In response to this age old problem we create a smooth finish and apply our specially formulated sealant; natural oils and waxes penetrate deep in to the wood keeping it flexible, healthy and preventing it from becoming brittle and dry. Shrinkage and swelling are reduced, the wood is able to breath and moisture can evaporate. The result is a silky finish that not only looks and feels wonderful but is *virtually maintenance free*.

Only in the immediate weeks following installation is regular maintenance required. During this time, you must use the Ultra Worksurface Sealant to prevent the wood from drying out and warping. This is especially important in kitchens that are very humid or cold.

Note: Timber work surfaces must not be installed in unoccupied premises.

Your Installation & Maintenance Kit contains all of the items required to help keep your new worksurface in pristine condition.

Ultra Worksurface Sealant is a professional, clear, satin matt finish preserver and sealant based on natural vegetable oils and waxes. Its micro porous finish will not crack, flake, peel or blister. **Remember:** Always wipe off all excess sealant before allowing to dry.

Ultra-Fresh Mousse is specially formulated to freshen up and clean your work surface to provide a fresh, protective layer on the surface. Its natural oils and waxes will restore the surface finish; apply at 2-3 month intervals or to seal minor repairs.

Important: Please read and follow instructions carefully before using either of the above products. Always wear rubber gloves when using chemicals to prevent any cracking, drying or other reaction to your skin.

Sealing Wood

Ultra Worksurface Sealant is ready to use straight from the tin. Please do not thin but stir thoroughly.

- Apply first coat thinly with a lint free cloth to face and all edges (including sink/hob cutouts) and allow to penetrate the timber. **Wipe off all excess sealant** and leave to dry overnight (at least 8-10 hours) ensuring good ventilation.
- Apply a second coat as previously.
- Apply a further coat where the surface has readily soaked up the first two coats.
 - **Further coat(s) of sealant should be applied in the first few weeks following installation to prevent drying out as the work surface acclimatises to its new environment.**
- If at any time in the future your work surface begins to dry out or look tired reapply a coat of Ultra Worksurface Sealant.

Every day cleaning

- All spills should be cleaned up immediately.
- For daily cleaning we recommend a solution of warm water with a drop of washing-up liquid.
- Soak a cloth in the solution, wring out until almost dry and wipe the down the worksurface.
- Dry with a soft cloth.

Persistent stains and Repairs

Although wood worksurfaces are virtually maintenance free accidents can happen; follow the correct procedure when repairing a damaged area.

- To remove more persistent stains from the worksurface first try a slightly stronger solution and/or allow a longer contact time and dry with a soft cloth.
- Light damage to the wood may be repaired by light sanding with a 220 grit sandpaper.
- Heavier damage may initially require the use of courser grit sandpaper.
- On completion of the sanding, when a smooth finish is achieved, the sanded area should be free from dust and dry before being treated with Ultra Worksurface Sealant as described earlier.
- If this still fails, please contact us for further advice and assistance.

Other Spillages

- All spills should be cleaned up immediately.
- Where necessary follow the repair procedures detailed above.

Damage Prevention

To keep your Wood Worktop in the best possible condition, the following points should be observed.

Warning: NEVER place hot pans, dishes or utensils directly on the worksurface (or into an empty sink). Hot items may mark or damage the surface.

- £ Always use a heat protection pad or trivet (with rubber feet) for hot cookware, or leave cookware to cool on the hob first.
- £ Try to leave pans, dishes, or utensils to cool before placing them in the sink. If you must put a hot pan into the sink, always place a damp sponge or cloth underneath, or put a few inches of cool water in the sink before the pan.

- € Avoid pouring boiling liquids directly into sinks without also turning on the cold tap.

Hob Safety

The Installation & Maintenance Kit contains a heat reflective tape, which the installer should apply around the hob cutout in the worksurface, before fitting the hob. This will prevent any damage to the worksurface. However extra care should be taken when using the hob. Please follow both the appliance manufacturer's instructions and the advice below:

- € An overhanging pan can scorch the surrounding worksurface.
- € Always use the correct size of pan for the burner and ensure that it is placed centrally.
- € Do not use two burners as one (e.g. for a large griddle).
- € Take extra care when using a large frying pan or wok.

Scratches

Though wood is very hardwearing and durable, care should always be taken to protect the surface wherever possible. **Warning: DO NOT** cut or chop directly on the worksurface. Always use a chopping board.