

General Kitchen Care Guide

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Painted and varnished woodwork

Clean with a soft cloth, warm water and a little mild detergent. It is recommended you don't use any abrasives. To remove stubborn stains, a white scourer may be used with care. Excessive or heavy scrubbing however, may result in damage to the surface.

Stainless steel – sinks and appliances

Despite its name, stainless steel can in fact stain and even rust. The likelihood of it doing either is based around the quality of the steel and the care and maintenance it receives.

Never:

- Use metal scourers to clean stainless steel, and never leave metal scourers on stainless surfaces; especially in sinks. (If the scourer starts to rust, it will leave rust stains on the stainless steel).
- Leave ironware or non stainless steel (especially wet) in sinks or on stainless surfaces. If any rust starts to develop where contact is made, this also will stain the stainless steel.

Avoid:

- The use of plastic bowls for washing up, as these cause heavy localised scratching;
- Leaving salt, vinegar, citric fruit juices, mustard or pickles on the surface for any length of time as they can cause corrosion;
- Leaving water to dry on the surface. Mineral deposits and limescale will adhere to the surface and they can pick up stains in themselves.
- Using cleaners containing chlorine (which includes most bleach) or abrasives. The chlorine in most bleaches reacts with the steel and over time will dull the surface and can lead to surface corrosion such as pitting.

Cleaning

Regular cleaning should be done with a soft cloth and soapy water. To sanitize stainless steel without using bleach you can use undiluted white Vinegar on a clean cloth applied to the entire sink surface or a *stainless safe* household cleaner. The same method can be used with chlorine free bleach or suitable household cleaners.

Removing stains

To remove rust marks and other stubborn stains, here are a few great environmentally friendly options.

- Use a liberal amount of vinegar on a soft scourer (white – the type recommended for non stick pans)
- Create a paste using equal amounts of lemon juice and baking soda and apply to stains with a sponge. For more stubborn stains, leave the paste on the stain for 15minutes before rubbing off.
- Glass cleaner is great for fingerprints. Use a lint free or microfiber cloth to buff to a shine.
- Use Bar Keepers Friend as per the instructions. This is available from good hardware shops, supermarkets and online.

A clean cloth, damp with soapy water should be used in the direction of the polish grain. Dry off with a microfiber cloth or paper towels again in the grain direction to achieve a streak free finish.

For cooker hoods we recommend the use of D.R. Cooker Hoods, Specialist Stainless Cooker Hood Cleaner; it degreases, cleans and polishes, leaving a protective layer behind, it is available direct from D.R. Cooker hoods or from It Woodwork.

Sinks

Ceramic sinks

Avoid:

- Abrasive cleaners should not be used as they will dull the gloss finish.
- You should be very careful with all substances containing fluoride, such as rust removers and toothpaste. Make sure that deposits are removed immediately as they can cause staining if left for any length of time.

Cleaning:

To remove stains, try the environmentally friendly cleaning suggestions listed above. For really stubborn stains, cover with a piece of kitchen paper soaked in vinegar and leave to stand overnight.

To keep your glazed surface sparkling and to sanitize it; apply a dilute solution of bleach around twice a week, using with a sponge or a soft kitchen cloth and rinse the surface of the sink thoroughly with plenty of water.

Note: Bleach can be harmful both orally and on your clothes, so always wear rubber gloves and ensure you rinse properly. Ensure proper ventilation as bleach gives off strong fumes.

Composite sinks

To maintain the sink's good looks regularly clean your sink using washing up liquid and hot water. For more stubborn marks, it is recommended to use a cream cleaner with a 'Scotchbrite' pad - this will not damage the sink's surface. Remove mineral deposits and scaling by soaking in a solution of 3 parts hot water and 1 part white vinegar. Aluminium marks left by saucepans can be removed using 'Shiny Sink'

or 'Astonish' Paste. Diluted bleach can be used on your sink, avoid soaking for long periods as this can damage the metal waste.

Always finish off by rinsing your sink with clean water to remove any residue, and then dry it with a soft cloth to prevent limescale build-up.

Drawers

Your drawer boxes are made from solid birch or oak and are finished in an environmentally friendly matt varnish. Although incredibly durable, the finish may wear over the years under the traffic of heavy pots and pans so you may wish to line the drawer base in order to keep them looking their best. The drawers slide effortlessly on Blum runners, which are incredibly rigid and should not need adjusting even under heavy loads. If you do find that a drawer settles over time then some fine tuning of the adjusters that are built into the runners may be needed. Please contact Sustainable Kitchens if you require assistance with these.

If you wish to remove a drawer, first you must pull it all the way out to the end of its travel. Hold the drawer sides at the front with your fingers underneath, squeeze the orange clips in towards the drawer sides and pull the drawer forward off the runners. To replace the drawers, ensure the runners are fully extended and place the drawer on them. Push it all the way back into the cabinet ensuring the drawer clicks into place. Pull it out carefully, as far as you can to check the clips have taken.

The runners are rated at 40kgs for drawers up to 450mm deep and 60kgs for drawers 500mm deep or more. (Depth indicates the distance from the front to the back of the drawer).

Hinges

Should a hinge develop any squeaks or creaks, rub one drop of cooking oil from your finger tip onto the spine of the hinge. Repeat on the inside of the hinge before opening and closing the door several times until the noise stops. In the unlikely event the problem persists, contact It Woodwork and arrange for a replacement hinge to be fitted.

LEDs

L.E.D lighting is incredibly reliable and should not require attention for many years. In the unlikely event of lighting failure, the first thing to check should be the driver (or power supply). This may be located in a small housing built into the cabinet or on top of the cabinet where cabinet tops are out of sight but accessible. A red light on the driver should be illuminated when the L.E.D's are on. If it is not, then check the fuse in the drivers plug. If the fuse hasn't blown then you may need to contact your local electrician or Sustainable Kitchens to investigate (LEDs and associated equipments are covered under the manufacturer's warranty for 12 months from purchase. During this period Sustainable Kitchens will provide warranty cover to investigate and replace LED equipment deemed to have failed under normal usage).

Appliances

All appliances are to be run and maintained in accordance with their respective operating instructions. Failure to do so may void warranties.

Integrated fridges/freezers

Always ensure the drain channel in your fridge is clear. Failure to do so can cause water to escape and may damage the cabinetry. See appliance manual on how to do this.

If you wish to remove an appliance, integrated or otherwise we suggest that you get in touch with It Woodwork and request assistance from an installer. Damage caused during the removal of an appliance without the assistance of IT Woodwork will not be covered under the warranty.

Extractor hoods

Both recirculating and externally vented cooker hoods are equipped with grease filters that clean the air before they expel it. It will be obvious when your grease filters need cleaning as they will have a film of grease on their surface. As the grease builds up, they become less effective at cleaning the air. The air flow will gradually reduce however so it may be considered best to clean them a little before the air becomes too slow.

Recirculating hoods have an additional filter (charcoal or carbon filter) which serves to reduce the smells in the air. Although hoods can be safely used without charcoal filters, they do also collect a small amount of grease so it's always best to use them.

Replace charcoal filters every 6 – 12 months for best results. They can not be cleaned.

Cleaning grease filters:

Many grease filters are dishwasher safe. Check with manufacturers instructions before placing them in a dishwasher. If they are not, immerse them in hot soapy water. Soak for a short while before scrubbing gently with a brush and rinsing. Repeat this once more and they will be spotless!

Appliance Removal

The water and electrical connections for the dishwasher and washing machine are made underneath the sink, behind the removable panel. The panel simply pulls forward off its magnetic catches.

Removing integrated appliances is a fairly involved process and we would always recommend you contact Sustainable Kitchens for support if this needs to be done or before attempting to do so. If you wish to do so yourself or would like a local tradesman to carry out the work then here are a few pointers to follow:

1. Be sure to isolate water and electrical sources before you start.
2. Remove the bottom panel of the cabinet (this is the section of frame that sits between the floor and the door). Removal of this panel is simply a matter of pulling it forward off its clips (This may require quite a bit of force as the panel can become tight due to movement of timber or application of paint).
3. Remove the fixings that connect the appliance to the cabinet (See appliance instructions).
4. Lower appliance by adjusting feet to free up appliance if required.

Pull the appliance out of the cabinet being careful not to mark the floor. Also be careful not to break the feet off the bottom of the appliances. These can be particularly fragile on under counter fridges and freezers.

Dishwasher removal

The water and electrical and plumbing connections are made underneath the sink, behind the removable panel. The panel simply pulls forward off its magnetic catches. Removing the dishwasher requires the removal of the lower section of the cabinet, which although stiff will pull forward and off without the use of tools. In the event you need to pull the dishwasher out however, we would recommend you call Sustainable Kitchens to arrange an engineer visit.

Silicone sealant

Silicone sealant will break down over time even through normal day to day use. If damaged silicone beads are not dealt with, damage may occur to worktops and cabinets etc.

Damaged or worn out silicone must be replaced promptly. Only attempt to do this yourself if you are competent to do so and understand what type of silicone is to be used in the required situation.

CAUTION: Stone worktops require acid free silicone. Not all acid free silicone is suitable however and some can still stain and ruin the worktop. If in doubt, please contact either It Woodwork Ltd or The Bristol Marble Company Ltd (01179 65 65 65) for advice.

Isolating water supplies

If you need to shut off the water supply to either a tap or appliance, the isolators are usually in the under-sink cupboard. At the back of the cupboard is a removable panel, held in place with magnets. Simply pull the panel forward off the magnets and take it out of the cupboard.

If your dishwasher or washing machine is not immediately to the left or right of the sink, it is likely that the isolator will be behind the appliance or in an adjacent cupboard.

Appliance taps/isolators have a blue handle. Turn this 90° to shut off the water.

Tap isolators and some appliance isolators are “in-line” isolators. These must also be turned 90° to shut off the water. Do this with a slotted screwdriver (be aware that these isolators will spin 360°. Unless you have turned it exactly 90°, there will still be some water pressure getting through).

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