



## CARING FOR YOUR NEW SOLID WOOD SURFACE

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### **PRIOR TO INSTALLATION**

Your solid wood surfaces will arrive unfinished with square edges and corners and needs a week to acclimatize to its new surroundings.

Do not put finish or oil on your countertop or cut it until it has had time to adjust to the humidity in your home.

Your new solid surface needs to rest flat/horizontally with air flow around all sides for at least one week to adjust fully and evenly.

Once installed, wipe the surface area by hand using a damp cloth to remove any residual wood dust. Allow it to dry completely before seasoning or finishing. Always wipe down your solid surface, with a damp and clean cloth, before seasoning.

### **FINISHING**

**Be sure to properly dispose of all oiled rags to prevent household fires.**

**Always follow the finish manufacturer's instructions for specific finishes.**

There are a number of food safe oils that are approved for use on wood that comes into contact with food. Always read the labels. Any oil that comes in contact with food should be labeled "Food Safe."

A solid wood surface with oil finish will require ongoing oiling to protect the piece and will develop a deep rich patina over time.

For natural plant oils or mineral oil, spread an even coating of oil over every part of the solid surface. Let the oil soak in for as long as possible, an hour or more, and then wipe off the excess. Allow the solid surface to continue absorbing the oil overnight, and then apply the second coat. The number of coats depends upon the species of wood and how dry the surface was at the beginning. Up to three to five coats of oil are necessary to seal the wood properly.

### **MAINTENANCE**

Periodically oil the solid wood surface with your choice of food-grade plant or mineral oil. Letting the surface dry out because of a lack of oil is the #1 cause of problems with the solid wood surface.

A good rule of thumb is once a week for the first month and then a minimum of monthly thereafter.

The frequency of oiling will vary by the species, the amount of use, and the harshness of detergents used to clean the surface.

If the wood appears dry, it is time to oil.

Keep your solid wood surface dry and away from direct heat. Do not allow liquid to stand on the surface for a long period of time; as this can cause stains and the wood to expand, which may result in damage to your solid wood surface.

If light scratches occur, sand the surface lightly with 220 grit sandpaper and re-apply food safe oil.