



WOOD TABLE TOP - OIL: CARE & MAINTENANCE

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Extremes of humidity and dryness can swell and shrink hard rock maple and/or oak enough to cause small seasonal checks to appear, usually at the ends of tops or at the end of a lamination. This possibility, though remote, is an unavoidable condition of enjoying the character and beauty of a living material. Cracks filled with a cellulose filler of the right tint become practically invisible. You can help preserve your wood table top by keeping your home humidified in the winter and by refreshing your table often with Boos® Mystery Oil and/or Boos Block® Board Cream.

All Butcher Block products are recommended to be oiled on all surfaces with Boos® Mystery Oil and/or Boos Block® Board Cream a minimum of once a month (depending on the use or household conditions). Following these simple care and maintenance instructions will help protect the wood from damaged and can lengthen the life of the wood top for many years.

1. DO NOT wash knives and forks or other utensils on the work surface of your top.
2. DO NOT wash your top with harsh detergents of any type.
3. DO NOT place countertops near excessive heat (such as stove) without proper insulation between heat source and the edge of the counter top.
4. DO NOT cut off ends, drill holes, make cutouts or otherwise deface tops without refinishing exposed unfinished wood. Guarantee is voided if tops are modified.

The table top is made of kiln dried wood and dried to a moisture content of 6% making it very susceptible to water and dampness. When cleaning the table top, we ask that the following directions be followed very closely:

1. Scrape loose with a steel scraper or spatula any heavy food particles or foreign matter that may have adhered to the surfaces.
2. Brush or scrap all loose particles from the surface.
3. Take clean dish cloth and dip it into warm soapy, or a very mild detergent water and wash top by wiping the top thoroughly.
4. Wash out the dish cloth in clear warm water, wring out, and go over the surface again.
5. Take a dry cloth and go over all surfaces to dry thoroughly.
6. A minimum of once a month (depending upon the use and household conditions), apply an even coat of Boos® Mystery Oil and Boos Block® Board Cream to all surfaces of your wood top. The Boos® Mystery Oil is a food-grade oil that easily absorbs and penetrates deeply into the grains of the wood surface to help protect, revitalize, and moisturize the wood fibers. Next you will want to use the Boos Block® Board Cream, that contains a natural, unbleached beeswax and food-grade oil formula. The Board Cream is denser and thicker which gives a protective top layer to the wood surface against foods and liquids.

If any method, other than the ones outlined above, is used in cleaning this top, very serious damage may result.

NOTE: All screws applied to wood tops require a pilot hole. Size or diameter of pilot hole should be 1/32" smaller than the diameter of the screw up to a #10. Wood screws #12 and larger should be 1/16" smaller than the diameter of the screw. Depth of pilot hole to equal portion of screw penetrating top. Use care to not drill through face. No guarantee of any kind is expressed or implied except as pertaining to material and workmanship.



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HOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR WOOD TOP TABLE

PROBLEM	DESCRIPTION	CAUSE	TO REPAIR
END CHECKS	Separation Of The Joints Along The End Of Top Or Block	Excessive Dryness, Not Oiled Frequently Enough	Melt a 1 to 4 mixture of paraffin and mineral oil and fill all checks. Make sure paraffin seals the check thoroughly. Continue oiling.
SPLITS	Separations Of Joint Along Full Length Of Top	Excessive Dryness	Proceed as above to seal split. If condition continues for an extended time period, contact your dealer.
WIND SHAKES	Small Portion Of Wood Grain Lifting Up From Table Top	Grain Separation, Excessive Dryness	Clean and dry top. Apply small portion of white glue to piece of paper. Slip paper under the shake and remove, leaving some glue for adhesion. Place heavy weight on area overnight and let dry. Remove any excess glue using light sandpaper or fine steel wool. WORK ONLY WITH THE GRAIN ! NEVER AGAINST IT!
WARPAGE	Top Cupping Or Bowing	Imbalance Of Moisture Content Between Top And Bottom Surfaces. Oiling Only One Surface	Apply oil liberally to concave side. If not corrected within 2 weeks, tape plastic (ie. plastic liners, dry cleaning wrap, etc.) to the convex side and oil the reverse side every day. Top will adjust to new humidity and correct itself.
RAIL EXPANSION	One Rail Raised Above Balance Of Top	Raised Rail Expanding At Faster Rate Than Other	Continue oiling as instructed for regular maintenance. Top will adjust to new humidity and correct itself.
STAINS	Water Spots, Food Stains, Etc.	Allowing Food To Remain On Table Top Too Long, Needs Paraffin Or Wax	Use light sandpaper or fine steel wood on stain. Continue regular maintenance. Stain will dissipate in wood grain.
DAMAGE	Nicks, Gouges, Dents, Etc.	External Environment	If top is oiled, simply sand and re-oil. If top is lacquered, lightly sand and refinish with lacquer or another compatible finish (consult a local finishing store).
MINERAL STREAKS	Dark Streaks In The Wood	Natural Discoloring Of The Wood Due To Mineral Deposits In The Tree	No repair needed - adds to individuality of your Butcher Block!

IMPORTANT!!! If you make any cuts or alterations in your Butcher Block, be sure to refinish the exposed edges with melted paraffin and oil or lacquer sealer. Holes or notches that have been installed in the table top must also be refinished. If you do not refinish these edges, your top will crack due to dryness.



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