

# CARE INSTRUCTIONS

For CaféCountertops' Solid Wood Countertops with Oil Finish



## DAILY

Do-

- Wipe worktop lightly after use with a dry or damp cloth. Avoid heavy soaking or scrubbing.
- Wipe up spills as quickly as possible.
- Place hot pots and pans on potholders or trivets.
- Place a shield of tin foil beneath heat-generating countertop appliances such as slow cookers

Don't-

- Don't use harsh cleaners, bleach, ammonia, solvents, scrubbing brushes, or scouring pads. NEVER use Lysol®-type sanitizers as these will react with oil finishes.
- Don't allow spilled liquids to stand on the surface. The finish is moisture-resistant but only to a point.

## WEEKLY OR AS NEEDED

Clean the worktop with our Gentle Wood Wash or other mild soap.

Gentle Wood Wash is a unique ph-neutral soap that is specially formulated to care for our Luxury Oil Finish. It is sold in Concentrate form. You will need a generic 32oz. spray bottle. Add two capfuls of concentrate (1 capful per 16oz.) and fill with water.

Directions for use: Lightly spray the worktop surface, wait a few minutes, and then wipe clean with a clean damp cloth or disposable towel. For deeper grime, allow the soap more time to work. Do not use abrasive pads or scrapers as these will ruin the countertop finish.

## ONCE A YEAR OR AS NEEDED

Oil the worktop with Luxury Oil as directed below.

**Important:** There is no universal oiling schedule. Some tops might last a year or more, others only for months; especially in dry climates or heavy use. Every 3 months or when the finish begins to dull and has an uneven sheen, dribble a small amount of water onto the surface. If it begins to soak in within 15 minutes, it's time to Oil.

Don't oil too often. Luxury Oil is a high-performance finish. Oiling too frequently with Luxury Oil will raise the sheen of your worktop (more glossy). Oiling will darken most woods. We recommend Oiling in the evening so that the oil can dry overnight.

**EXPECTATIONS:** Wood countertops are essentially wood furniture that will scratch and dent and show signs of wear-and-tear. Don't clean with harsh chemicals you wouldn't use on other wood furniture. The finish is moisture-resistant, but shouldn't be flooded with water. Wood may change color over time.

**CLIMATE CONTROL:** Constantly maintain indoor air temperature at 65-80°F and humidity at 50-60%. Take special care in winter, when wintry weather and home heating systems may cause wood to be dry and brittle if humidity levels are not maintained. In many cases, more humidity is needed.

**SAFETY:** Oil-soaked rags are combustible. Always dispose of oily rags and disposable towels immediately after use, using the method directed below.

## PREPARE

Clean and thoroughly dry the worktop. Vacuum the Applicator Pad to remove loose fibers. Protect sinks and faucets with masking tape. Locate your Maintenance Kit (sold separately).



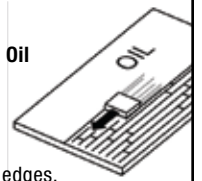
OILING

## STIR

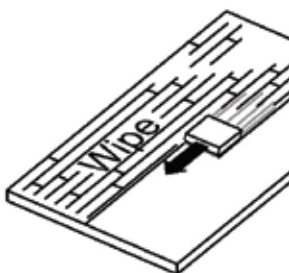
Open the Oil and remove any surface "skin". **Stir the oil until fully blended** (do not shake). Luxury Oil contains waxes which settle in storage. These waxes are the backbone of your worktop's protection. If these waxes aren't blended into the oil, your worktop won't be water-resistant. If oil is slow to blend, soften waxes by placing the bottle in a simmering pot of hot water.

## APPLY

CaféCountertops uses **Luxury Oil** from Andover Products. Other oils won't give the protection needed. Apply the Oil in a **THIN** even coat using the Applicator Pad. Avoid drips at edges. Take care not to get oil on any other surface. Close oil container tightly when not in use.



## WAIT, THEN WIPE



**WAIT 15 MINUTES**, then thoroughly **WIPE OFF** all excess oil with disposable towels. If oil is not thoroughly wiped off, it will dry sticky, and the worktop may have to be completely refinished.

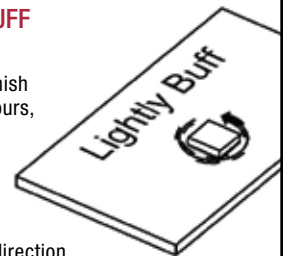
## CLEAN-UP



**PLACE OILY RAGS IN A ZIP-SEAL PLASTIC BAG AND SOAK WITH WATER FOR DISPOSAL.** The water displaces air, which prevents spontaneous combustion. Wash the Applicator Pad with dish soap and air-dry before storing in a plastic bag for re-use.

## LET DRY AND BUFF

After the new oil finish has cured for 12 hours, gently dry-buff the entire worktop surface with the white pad provided in the maintenance kit, rubbing in the direction of the woodgrain to blend the wax finish.



The surface may also develop shiny spots with use. This is normal with finishes which contain wax. Blend the wax by gently buffing the surface as described here. If the surface has dry spots, see "Once A Year" above.

## COMMON PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS:

Light scuff marks may be possible to buff out with the white pad provided in the maintenance kit. For scratches and spot-repairs, sand the spot in the direction of the wood grain with the grey pad until the blemish is removed, and then oil and wipe as directed above. Warping, cracking etc. are almost always a result of improper installation or seasonal climate change and are usually not covered under warranty. Cracks can be filled with wood filler (see Installation instructions). Rough surface spots (raised woodgrain) result from too much exposure to water, and may self-correct after the wood dries; if not, spot-repair as described above. A dry, blotchy surface usually indicates that the top needs oil or that harsh cleaners/abrasives have been used. A sticky oil surface is caused by not wiping off excess oil. Attempt to loosen by lightly applying more oil, waiting ten minutes and then wiping as directed, but if the oil is still sticky, or for other major repairs and refinishing, see "Refinishing" in the Installation Instructions.

Order supplies at [www.cafecountertops.com/care](http://www.cafecountertops.com/care)