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**SOLID WOOD  
WORK TOP  
TREATMENT &  
MAINTENANCE  
GUIDE**

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## *Congratulations on the purchase of your Café Countertop!*

The following pages contain information on how to treat and maintain your Café Countertop. Please read and follow instructions carefully and you will enjoy your solid wood top for years to come.

### **Maintenance Kit Includes:**

- Wood Hand Block
- Application Pad
- Sanding Block
- Disposable Towels
- 250 ml Finishing Oil
- Burgundy Abrasive Pad
- Grey Abrasive Pad



### **Applicator Pad**

This pad is used to apply finishing oil.

### **Disposable Towel**

Can be used to remove excess oil and or to hand polish top to a shine after oil is almost dry.

### **Grey Abrasive Pad**

Suitable for buffing the surface before and/or after oiling.

### **Burgundy Abrasive Pad**

This rough, abrasive pad can be used for light sanding and scouring to remove water blushe or light stains.

### **Sanding Block**

Scratches, cuts, and minor damage can be reduced and completely removed using the block. Sanding will remove treatment, therefore work top will need to be retreated and polished.

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### **PLEASE NOTE:**

It is important that the pads are washed with detergent after polishing with oil, as it will prevent self-ignition.

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## **OIL TREATMENT**

1. Before you begin, vacuum the tan foam applicator pad to remove any remaining loose fibers. Use grey abrasive pad to clean scour surface of countertop for initial cleaning; then use tan foam applicator pad to apply oil.
2. Apply oil to center of pad in small amounts. Do NOT SATURATE the pad. This can be done by using a syringe or squeeze bottle.
3. After applying oil to the pad, place the pad on the surface and spread evenly. For best results use only light pressure to keep the MicroFingers vertical.
4. As you get the feel, adjust the amount of oil to suit your needs. Avoid getting oil into foam layer as it makes the pad more difficult to clean.
5. Maintain a wet edge as you work, always working from where you last applied oil toward the unfinished area. Blend to a uniform consistency as you go.
6. After all areas have been oiled, go back over the entire surface with a buffing action. This will speed the drying process and smooth the surface so that no additional sanding is necessary.
7. Allow the surface to dry, for a period of 5-10 minutes, and wipe the countertop completely with disposable towels to remove any remaining finishing oil. If you will be applying additional coats of oil within a few hours, place pad in a sealed bag to prevent drying between uses.
8. Clean pads after each use. For oil based clean-up, use mineral spirits, then wash with dish soap and rinse. Squeeze moisture from pads, pat dry with towel, then allow the pads to air dry. DO NOT USE A DRYER!

*After 24 hours at 70°, the oil is dry.  
During this period you should avoid getting water on the countertop.*

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### **NOTE:**

Oily rags are spontaneously combustible, and therefore must be immediately disposed of properly after use.

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## MAINTENANCE

These instructions have been drawn up as an aid to treating your work tops correctly. To ensure that these work tops function throughout their lifetime, these instructions **MUST** be followed to the letter. Read these instructions carefully, as the guarantee is not valid if the instructions are not followed. The first eight weeks of maintaining the countertop lay the foundation for its perfect condition. The greater amount of treatment it receives (numerous small amounts of oil) the greater its resistance to dirt, etc. Each top is sanded at the mill, eliminating the need for heavy sanding, although light sanding may be needed, followed by oiling. It is vital to ensure that the board reacts to moisture equally. This includes all cut surfaces to prevent the ingress of moisture.

Oil-treated work tops have received a basic treatment, but must be given a finishing treatment before installation, and maintenance must be carried out thereafter. These work tops are, to some extent, resistant to heat, water, spirits, and other liquids. The following steps are necessary for your work top's first eight weeks of maintenance.

***Priming:*** Before installing, apply cutouts, edges, and the reverse side with an even layer of the oil. Then apply a thin, even layer of oil to the top of the work top and let this soak in for 5-10 minutes. (Do not allow the top to 'swim' in the oil). Finally, with a dry, clean cloth, wipe away any excess oil to avoid blotches.

***Finishing:*** 12 hours after the last oiling, sand the work top lengthways (in the direction of the staves) with the grey abrasive pad and remove any dust. Afterwards, oil the work top for the last time. Let this soak in for 15 minutes and again, with a dry clean cloth, wipe away any excess oil to avoid blotches. 24 hours after the last treatment, the work top is ready for use.

***Follow-up Treatments:*** To increase the top's resistance to water penetration, treat the work top every other day for the first week, and then bi-weekly until the work top is saturated (approximately 2 months). At this point, the work top only needs to be treated as required.

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### **NOTE:**

When cleaning a natural oil work top use mild soap and water. Remove any excess water from the day-to-day cleaning of the work top. To clean the work top more thoroughly, use a scouring pad. If this is not sufficient, sand the surface lengthwise with fine sand paper and re-oil the top. Never use cleaning products that include salammoniac or scouring powder. (Salammoniac can discolor the surface).

**IMPORTANT:** Avoid long periods of water or wet things on the work top including wet dishcloths, etc. If a solid wood work top is repeatedly saturated in water it may eventually blush or crack. In case of water blushing, let dry and then follow the above instruction. Cracks that result from such conditions are not covered in the product guarantee.

