

Worktops by CROWN DEVELOPMENTS

Caring for your Solid Wood Worktops

- Solid hardwood kitchen worktops provide a natural beauty to your kitchen that is hard to beat, no other form of kitchen work surface has the timeless beauty and warmth that a real solid wood worktop brings to the kitchen.
- One of the main advantages of a wooden worktop is that while other work surfaces age badly through use, losing their original splendour, wood gains in character, becoming richer and deeper in colour over time and becoming a part of your home in a personal way that other materials will not.
- A solid wooden worktop also has the benefit of being solid all the way through. This means that if you mistreat and care for the worktop badly any surface damage or scratches can easily be sanded away to reveal a fresh new surface.

Worktop surface treatment - oiling

When you receive a worktop from us it will have been carefully sanded to a super smooth finish and will require a surface treatment to make it hard wearing and give it a long lasting and tough finish to keep it looking good through the years of wear it will receive in the heart of your home. The best finish for a solid wood worktop is oil. Oil adds depth and character to the wood that varnish and lacquers can't match, it is also simple to apply and easy to resurface should you allow the worktop to become tired looking and gives the wood a water resistant finish.

From new the worktop requires two liberal coatings of oil on the underside and the edges that will not be seen, this is to balance the worktop and stop it from bowing, no particular care to the application of oil should be given here as the underneath will not be seen. Where there are appliances the underside of the worktop should have a moisture barrier to protect against heat and steam. The top and front sides should receive 3 to 5 light coats, with maybe a very light sanding or denibbing in between coats. The oil is best applied by pouring a little oil directly onto the worktop and spreading in the direction of the grain with a lint free cotton cloth, a pad made from an old clean T-shirt is ideal. The oil wants to be applied in a thin, even and consistent film across the surface.

When to re-oil

It is important to re-oil the worktop at regular intervals to maintain the durability of the oiled finish and keep the worktop looking at its best. When the worktop is newly oiled and the surface treatment is in good condition it will have a sheen to it. After a period of time the treated surface will wear and the sheen will diminish and the surface becomes dull and dry looking.

In use with a good coating of oil any spilt liquids or water should "bead" and form into globules, it is a sign that the worktop needs another coat of oil when this beading effect starts to disappear and water starts to lie flat on the work surface. A further coat of oil should be applied to the worktop between once every three to six months, depending on usage. Regular treatment of oil like this will keep the worktop looking like new for many years.

Resurfacing

In general a well maintained and looked after worktop will look good for many, many years, however if the worktop starts to show signs of wear and tear and become a little grubby it can very easily be brought back to looking like brand new. Depending on the severity of the wear, the treatment will vary. For regularly maintained surfaces that are just a little "dry" looking, a good clean with soapy warm water first, then, when the wood is completely dry, several thin applications of worktop oil. Do not be tempted to apply a really thick coat as it is nowhere near as effective as several thin ones.

Types of oil

Worktop oil isn't rocket science. Applying a finish to wood with oil is simple and effective and should be encouraged if not least of all simply because it gives wood a warm, natural and lived in look far removed from the plastic look that spray on modern lacquers give.

- **Tung oil**, Tung is a tree found in China and Africa and some South American countries.
- **Linseed oil** is extracted from the seeds of the flax plant by steaming and crushing them. Raw linseed oil is boiled to remove impurities and helps to make the oil dry faster.
- **Danish oil** is simply a mix of various oils such as Tung and Linseed Oil with some additives to aid drying.
- **Teak oil** is fundamentally a mixture of various oils extracted from vegetables. It has nothing to do with the wood Teak.

Cleaning

All that is required to clean a hardwood worktop is a wipe down with a cloth dipped in warm soapy water and well wrung out.

DOs and DON'Ts

- Always mop up spills of water and other liquids straight away. Do not allow liquids to stand for any period of time. The finishing oil is water resistant not waterproof. Particular attention should be made at the sink area, get into the habit of wiping down the work surface after use at the sink and leave the worktop in a "dry" state. Do not stand wet crockery etc on the worktop and leave for any length of time.
- Always stand hot, dirty or rough pans on a trivet or pan stand or hot rods. Lengthy prolonged contact with metals such as iron and steel can cause black staining of the timber, this is caused by the natural chemicals in the wood reacting with the metal, so avoid leaving iron trivets standing on the worktop.
- Always use cutting boards to chop food. Do not cut directly on the worktop.
- Maintain the oiled finish at regular intervals, you can't over do this, in the past fine furniture was finished with oil alone to give it a lustrous finish, however much time and work is required to reach a gloss finish with oil so this practice has died out mostly.

At Worktops By Crown Developments

We offer a full Maintenance package to make your Worktops look like new for many years to come.

We will attend your property on an annual bases where we will sand back the worktops and re-oil with 3 coats of Danish Oil.

For further information please contact us.

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