

Cabinets

Cabinets are installed in your kitchen and bath areas. Modern cabinets are constructed of either natural wood or a laminate product. All cabinets require regular cleaning as well as periodic adjustment of door hinges and drawer assemblies.



Kitchen Cabinets

Important Information

- **Adjust Cabinet Hardware.** Adjust the cabinet hardware to help prevent damage to the cabinets from misalignment or degradation from loose fasteners. Tighten loose screws, and keep hinges or drawer guides clean and lubricated. Certain hinge types and drawer guides incorporate adjustment screws that may need tightening or repositioning over time. Lubricate cabinet hinges with an oil-based lubricant when there is squeaking or the door does not move freely. Remove excess oil with a dry paper towel.
- **Protect from Moisture and Heat.** Do not leave damp cloths, sponges, or wet containers on surfaces or shelves. Avoid placing heat and steam-producing appliances in locations where they affect nearby cabinet surfaces. Do not open the dishwasher when still steaming. Do not use electric coffee makers and teapots directly under upper cabinets. When using the self-cleaning feature on your oven, be sure to open all cabinet doors and drawers on either side of the oven. This measure will prevent any damage that may be caused to the cabinets by the heat of the oven.

- **Protect Breadboards.** If your kitchen counters include a natural wood breadboard, it has most likely not been treated. Protect with light mineral oil and reapply as needed.
- **Do Not Overload Shelves.** Be careful not to overload upper cabinet shelves. They have been designed to hold a reasonable number of dishes, but should not be loaded to the top.



Note: Cabinets settle over the first few weeks and sometimes are in need of small adjustments. If you feel service is required, contact GHO Homes Corporation' customer service department approximately one month from the date you move in so a service adjustment can be scheduled.



Note: There is no warranty for heat damage caused by ovens, candles, or any other excessive heat sources.

Cleaning Tips

Do not use a dish cloth to wipe the cabinet exterior, since it may contain remnants of grease or detergents which may damage the finish. Clean spills immediately. Give special attention to areas around the sink and dishwasher. Avoid draping damp or wet dish towels over the door of the sink base cabinet. Over time, this moisture can cause permanent water damage to the door.

Wood

On sealed wood cabinets, use a damp cloth or mild soap, as necessary. Furniture cream or lemon oil will only help clean, but will not renew the wood. If the finish coating is worn and the natural wood is exposed, do not use any cleaning product until the surface is professionally refinished. Do not use abrasive, caustic, or ammonia-based cleaners. See the discussion on "Countertops and Backsplash" in this guide, as the countertops may require cleaners that should *not* be used on the cabinets. Natural wood surfaces (i.e., cabinets not sealed with a paint or a nonporous clear coat) can be renewed with a furniture cream or lemon oil, but avoid paste wax or spray wax. Cover minor scratches with a putty stick from a hardware store.

Laminates

Laminate cabinets feature a durable thermofused laminate on all exposed surfaces. While highly durable, they should be protected from prolonged exposure to water and steam, as this may result in delamination of the surface. Use a clean cloth dampened with clear water when cleaning normal household spills. After wiping thoroughly, immediately dry the surface with a lint-free cotton cloth. Never use abrasive cleaners, scouring pads, detergents or powdered cleansers. In the case of grime build-up, a soft cloth and mild soapy warm water may be used on the laminate surfaces if immediately rinsed and dried thoroughly.

Recommended Maintenance Tasks	Frequency
Clean cabinet surfaces.	Regularly
Tighten hardware, adjust drawer guides, and check alignment.	Twice per year or as needed
Polish wood cabinet surfaces with furniture polish or other appropriate product in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.	Annually or as needed

Effects of Deferred Maintenance

Failure to properly maintain cabinets may result in shortened life and a loss of appeal.