



Care & Maintenance - Butcher Block Tops



507 East Grant Street
Thorp, WI 54771
800-242-2303
www.wibenchmfg.com



Initial Installation

Step 1

Allow the top to reach ambient room temperature prior to installation. It may take forty-eight (48) hours for the top to acclimate to the surrounding environment.

Step 2

Holes in base framework (steel, cabinet, etc.) used to secure the top to the frame must be 3/8" larger than the bolt or fastener. Pre-drill pilot holes for lag screw fasteners and only tighten the fastener slightly as the top needs to be able to expand and contract in width, not length.

Step 3

If final mounting requires cutting the top, then all exposed raw wood surfaces must be resealed. Polyurethane is an excellent sealer for lacquered tops, while mineral oil should be used for oil finished tops.

Your solid hardwood butcher-block top can be affected by the temperature and humidity of the surrounding environment. To ensure your satisfaction and the long-term performance of the top, we suggest the following:



Surface Maintenance

Lacquered tops should avoid excessive amounts of water, oil, and strong cleaning agents. The top should be immediately wiped clean when the surface has been exposed to such excesses. For oiled tops we recommend oiling them a minimum of once a month.

Also, note that most carburetor cleaners or similar products may damage the surface finish. When necessary, reseal any exposed raw wood surfaces to avoid expansion and swelling caused by water and humidity.

Warping

A top that becomes warped from environmental or seasonal heating dryness is a temporary condition. This condition can be corrected by un-mounting the top and turning it over (so bottom surface is up) and allowing equalization. The top can then be reinstalled as originally mounted.

Avoid positioning wood tops directly next to heat sources.

Warning: Do not mount any Butcher Block top directly to a solid substrate.

1/16" spacer would be required w/ this application to prevent delamination, cracking, or warping.



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How to Maintain Your Butcher Block Top

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.

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	Separation 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, NOT AGAINST IT!
Warpage	Top cupping or bowing	Imbalance of moisture content between top and bottom surfaces, i.e.: Oiling only one surface.	Apply oil liberally to concave side or lacquer. If not corrected within 2 weeks, tape plastic (ie, plastic liners, dry cleaning wrap, etc.) to the convex side and oil/lacquer the reverse side. Top may 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 wool 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!