

## Care & Maintenance

Element Wood countertops are both beautiful and practical. With a relatively small amount of work these surfaces can add warmth to a room for years to come. In order to preserve your Element Wood surface there are two important things to remember. First, avoid standing water and wipe up spills immediately. Secondly, do not let soap sit directly on the finish. Wood is both beautiful and durable, and we are confident you will love the organic touch a wood countertop brings to your home.

### DAILY CARE

Create a non-abrasive cleaning solution by combining 20% white vinegar and 80% water in a squirt bottle. Shake the bottle to mix the white vinegar and water, then spray your surface, and wipe! White distilled vinegar is a popular household cleanser as its acidity effectively kills most mold, bacteria, and germs making it a natural disinfectant. Cleaning with white distilled vinegar is a smart way to avoid using harsh chemicals, and is environmentally friendly as well as very economical.

Your Element Wood surface can also be wiped down with a mild detergent that does not contain ammonia or bleach. After wiping down with a mild detergent, rinse your surface with clean water and then use a dry towel to remove excess water. Let your surface dry and then disinfect it by misting it with our recommended vinegar solution.

### STANDING WATER

Quickly wipe up any water on your Element Wood surface, and be sure to thoroughly dry your surface after cleaning. Standing water will damage the surface over time.

For a water-resistant barrier, all cutouts, edges, and surfaces must be treated with your choice of finish to seal out moisture. Take particular care to choose a good polyurethane and do a thorough job with it. Avoid marine varnish; while water resistant, this high-VOC finish is not food safe.

### RESISTANCE TO HEAT

Always use a hot pad or trivet when setting down hot objects such as pans or plates. Direct contact with extremely high heat can cause damage to your Element Wood surface, therefore we do not recommend using devices such as crock pots on your surface.

### CUTTING DIRECTLY ON THE COUNTERTOP

We do not recommend cutting or chopping directly on your Element Wood countertop in order to preserve your surface.

## SCRATCHES

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To cover/remove scratches in the finish (not deep into the wood) you can use 000 Steel Wool wrapped around a sanding block.

Rub over the scratched area in a back and motion, always with the grain. You will not need to completely remove the scratch—you are only altering the finish to prepare it for another coat. Use enough pressure to scuff the edges of the scratch and the area immediately surrounding it, but not enough to wear down to the bare wood.

Once you are done, clean the scuffed area with a dry rag and follow up with a tack cloth to remove any debris from the area to be oiled. **DO NOT USE ANY WATER-BASED CLEANERS.**

Next you will apply an Oil Finish (such as Waterlox Tung Oil or WOCA Worktop Oil) by pouring a small amount (size of a dime) on the scratched area.

Rub the finish in a circle motion with a clean rag to spread the oil around the scratched area. Do not spread further than necessary away from scratched area (an inch or two will be sufficient).

Rub the area until the oil just starts to dry up.

Before the oil is fully dry, switch to a clean rag and buff the area surrounding the scratch, removing as much of the oil from the surface area as possible while at the same time rubbing it into the scratch. (This process is vaguely similar to waxing a scratch on a car).

These steps can be repeated if the scratch is still visible after the oil is completely dry.

## SINKS

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With the right kind of sealer wood and water can be compatible. However we recomend choosing an undermount sink as the cutout extends slightly beyond the sink lip and over the bowl, which will prevent standing water from saturating the edge, making the counter easier to maintain.

Element Wood will not suspend heavy cast-iron sinks and farm sinks. These require a support structure below. Details for this structure are typically included in the sink manufacturer's installation instructions.

If you have any questions or concerns as to how to best care for and maintain your Element Wood countertop please don't hesitate to contact us at 855 - 796 - 9663, or via email at [elementsurfaces@stoneshowcase.net](mailto:elementsurfaces@stoneshowcase.net), and we will get back to you as quickly as possible.

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THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING ELEMENT SURFACES!

WE HOPE YOU LOVE LIVING #INYOURELEMENT.

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