Cabinet Care & Cleaning Guidelines

For residents, property managers and turnover crews

Our cabinets are built to take daily use in multifamily homes. Most damage we see comes from three things: the wrong cleaner, too much water, and heat. Follow the steps below and your cabinets will look the same in year five as they did at move-in.

The Five Rules

- **1. Wipe it up fast.** Spills, grease and water left on a finish cause permanent staining and swelling. Wipe them up the same day.
- **2. Soap, water, soft cloth, then dry.** Mild dish soap in warm water, a soft cloth or microfiber, then a dry cloth. That handles almost everything.
- **3. Damp, not wet.** Wring the cloth out. Never soak a door, drawer front or cabinet bottom, and never let water stand on a surface.
- **4. Test before you commit.** Try any new product on a hidden spot first, such as the inside edge of a door, and wait for it to dry.
- **5. Keep heat away.** Keep cabinets away from direct heat and steam. See the Heat & Steam section.

Clean by Surface

Surface	Clean with	Never use
Painted doors and drawer fronts (Paint MDF)	Soft cloth dampened with mild soap and warm water. Wipe, rinse with a clean damp cloth, dry right away. Blot grease; don't scrub.	Abrasive pads or powders, strong degreasers, ammonia, bleach, vinegar. Harsh cleaners can strip or dull the paint.
Thermofoil doors and drawer fronts	Soft cotton or microfiber cloth with warm water and a drop of mild soap. Dry immediately, especially at edges and corners.	Steam cleaners, abrasives, solvents (acetone, nail polish remover), and any heat source nearby. Heat can lift the foil.
Solid wood shaker doors (stained or painted)	Dry or barely damp soft cloth, wiping with the grain. Mild soap and water for stuck-on spots, then dry.	Soaking, wax or polish sprays, silicone products, steel wool. Excess moisture swells joints and dulls the finish.
Melamine fronts and cabinet boxes (interiors, shelves, sides, toekicks)	Damp cloth with mild soap and water. Dry the shelves and the base of the cabinet, especially under the sink.	Abrasive scrubbers and standing water. Particle board under melamine swells when it gets wet and does not shrink back.
Drawer slides, hinges and pulls	Dry or barely damp cloth. Wipe pulls with mild soap and water, then dry.	Brass or silver polish, lubricant sprays on slides, and soaking. Report loose hinges or sagging doors instead of forcing them.

Products to Avoid on Every Finish

- Ammonia, bleach, and cleaners that contain either one.
- Silicone-based cleaners, waxes and furniture polishes. They build up and leave a film that is hard to remove.
- Abrasive pads, steel wool, scouring powders and magic erasers.
- Undiluted vinegar or other acidic cleaners, and oven cleaner.
- Glass cleaner sprayed on cabinets. Spray any cleaner onto the cloth, not the cabinet.
- Steam cleaners and pressure washers.

Heat & Steam

- Open the dishwasher after a cycle finishes and let steam clear before it reaches the cabinet above or beside it.
- Use a heat shield or the manufacturer's trim kit beside and above ranges and ovens. Don't leave toasters, air fryers, kettles or slow cookers running under wall cabinets.
- Before running a self-cleaning oven cycle, check the oven manufacturer's instructions for the doors and drawers next to it.

Water & Leaks

- Look under every sink monthly. Check the supply lines, the drain, and the cabinet floor for water, staining or swelling.
- Dry the front of the sink base after dishes and wipe up water at the dishwasher and range edges.
- Report leaks to maintenance the day you find them. Wet melamine and particle board is a repair that grows quickly.

Care Schedule

When	Task
Daily	Wipe spills and splatter. Dry any wet surface.
Weekly	Wipe door and drawer fronts near the range, sink and trash. Wipe pulls and handles.
Monthly	Dust tops and fronts with a soft dry cloth. Check under the sink. Check that doors close flat and drawers run smoothly.
At turnover	Empty all cabinets and drawers. Wipe the inside, shelves and toekicks with mild soap and water, and dry. Wipe all fronts. Open and close every door and drawer to check hinges and slides. Log any damage before the next resident moves in.

Damage or Questions

Chips, peeling, swelling, loose hinges and sagging doors are easier and cheaper to fix when they are reported early. Contact H Supply with the project name, the unit number and a photo. Warranty coverage is governed by your project contract.