

HOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR BUTCHER BLOCK

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	Separations 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	Inbalance of moisture content between top and bottom surfaces Oiling only one surface.	Apply oil liberally to concave side. If not corrected within 2 weeks, tape plastic (ie. Plastic liners, dry cleaning wrap, etc.) to the convex side and oil the reverse side every day. Top will 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!

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.