

How To Clean Cabinets

Cabinet cleaning techniques are the same whether you are working on a kitchen, bath or storage area. But you might have to budget different amounts of time based on the room. If you have a busy kitchen, some cabinets might need to be wiped clean once a day. Others might need only a weekly cleaning. Remember to clean around handles and close to appliances. Use the following tips to customize your cleaning routine based on cabinet materials.

Wood Cabinets

Cabinets might be solid wood, veneer over wood or vinyl coated wood. The wood might be sealed with polyurethane, wax, varnish or left natural. Care depends upon the surface treatment. General purpose oil-soap wood cleaners work well for general care. Whatever the sealant, frequently clean and polish or wax your wood cabinets. Heat and temperature changes can dry wood. Wood cabinets can also be damaged by condensation caused by steam from cooking and dishwashers. Wipe cabinets dry. Do not get wood excessively wet. Occasionally disinfect all surfaces with a diluted antibacterial cleaner without bleach. Wipe on, then rinse with a clean, damp cloth. Dry with a third cloth. Work with the grain of the wood when cleaning and polishing.

Painted Cabinets

Painted cabinets that are sealed with one or more coats of oil-based paint are more durable and therefore more scrubbable, than latex-painted wood. Wash painted cabinets with warm water and diluted all-purpose cleaner, wood cleaner, or white vinegar. Do not get the wood excessively wet. Rinse the surface with a second cloth and clean water.

Wipe areas that might be contaminated with food-borne bacteria with an antibacterial kitchen cleaner or a solution of 1 tablespoon bleach to 1 quart water.

If grease builds up, wipe the cabinets with ammonia and water. Rinse with clear water. For stubborn stains, loosen dirt with a paste of baking soda and water. Don't use abrasive cleaners or scouring pads because they can scratch the surface.

Cleaning Cabinet Interiors

Wipe the insides of cabinets and drawers with all-purpose cleaner or white vinegar diluted in water. Rinse and dry. Use a toothbrush to clean along the edges and cracks. Let the surface dry completely before placing any item back in the cabinets or drawers.