

Maintenance Instructions



Solid Wood

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Solid wood

First and foremost we would like to congratulate you on your new worktop from SPEKVA.

We would also like to tell you a bit about solid wood and how you can ensure a long and problem-free life for your new solid wood worktop.

For generations, wood has brought natural warmth to countless homes
- and now to yours!

When choosing genuine solid wood products, it is important to accept the special characteristics inherent in the material, which are what leave their mark on the finished product. These special characteristics are, unlike synthetic materials, precisely those which provide the charm and characteristics of genuinely natural solid wood, and ultimately these are what make each single product unique.

Depending on the type of wood, solid wood can be characterised by knots, silicon content, splitting, surface cracks, colour variations or signs of aging, none of which are defects in the wood, but rather natural properties and special characteristics determined by the branch's anchoring in the tree trunk and the conditions under which the tree grew.

Solid wood is a natural product, and the wood will change colour and structure over time. Worktops exposed to sunlight will change appearance more rapidly; in particular, lighter types of wood will become darker and darker types of wood will become lighter. Note that some types of wood can leave a mark on fabrics until they are saturated with oil.

In the surface it will also be possible to see some "splits/cracks", which are natural occurrences and which can potentially be sealed with wax.

As wood is a "living" product and works in accordance with moisture levels, it is important for the relative humidity in the room to be approximately 50%, which is normal in a setting where the temperature is 20°C.

The reason for this is the wood's natural contraction and expansion when it respectively releases or absorbs humidity. The moisture content will vary with the seasons indoors as well. If solid wood worktops are constantly exposed to high levels of humidity, they will often become warped, and shift more than the normal 3-5 mm with a depth of 60 cm.

General

Household appliances that radiate heat, such as coffee machines, must not be placed directly on the solid wood worktop. Any heat source should, on the other hand, be placed on a heat-resistant mat in order to prevent discolouration and crack formation.

When located near hotplates, sinks and above ovens, dishwashers and washing machines, wood is subject to more rapid drying because of the effect of the heat, which is why more frequent maintenance will be necessary in order to avoid drying, discolouration and cracking.

Always use a trivet to protect the worktop against hot, moist or coloured objects, such as saucepans, vases and flowerpots. Always use a cutting board when using sharp tools.

If the worktop is freestanding without cabinets below it, we recommend maintenance on both sides of the worktop.

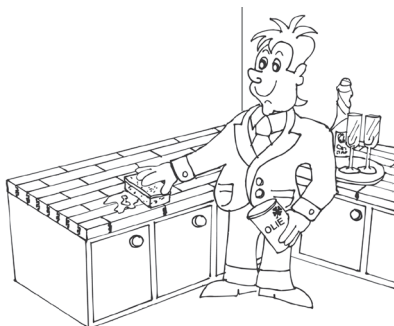
Worktop care

In order to achieve the optimal care of your worktop, it is important to use the right tools.

SPEKVA has collected the various polishing pads and sandpapers into a care kit, which can provide your oil- and soap-treated worktop with optimal maintenance.

The care kit will ensure your worktop retains a protective and smooth surface and enables you to repair minor damage.

Review the following pages to see what care your specific worktop requires.



Care kit

Our polishing cloth is flexible with a Velcro strap so that it can be changed between tools.

Sandpaper

It is possible to minimise or even completely remove scratches, dents and other minor damage using sandpaper.

- *Sandpaper, 180 grit:*

Used to sand down the area in the event of minor damage.

- *Sandpaper, 240 grit:*

Used for sanding prior to surface treatment or for sanding in oil.

As sanding removes the surface treatment, it is important to provide the slab with a protective surface and continue with polishing.

Polishing pads

The pads, which are respectively dark red and white, must be used to maintain your worktop. The polishing pads must be used for application of both oil and soap. Using the polishing pad will allow the oil or soap to penetrate into the wood more easily and will ensure thorough protection.

- *Dark red polishing pad:*

This pad is the roughest and causes the oil/soap to penetrate into the wood. When polishing in oil with this polishing pad, a silky smooth surface will be achieved.

- *White polishing pad*

This pad is used for fine polishing. By using it to polish a hardened wax surface, a smooth and fine surface will be achieved.

IMPORTANT!

Polishing pads used to polish in oil can self-ignite. Used polishing pads can be washed in soapy water or stored in a glass container with an airtight lid.

Cleaning

Mild cleaning agents and a hard, wrung-out cloth are recommended for daily cleaning. **IMPORTANT:** Do not use abrasive cleaning agents, scouring pads, concentrated soaps/detergents or soft soap ("brown soap").

Note

Avoid prolonged water contact on the slabs, such as rags, cups, plates, vases, etc. Spilled fluids should be wiped up immediately.

Never attempt to polish the surface using steel wool or coarse sandpaper.

If the surface needs polishing, use a fine sandpaper, minimum grit 180 or finer.

More frequent maintenance is required near hotplates, sinks, over ovens, dishwashers and washing machines, and on end grain wood.

Make sure that there is no water standing on the worktop. For stains: Remove the liquid and wash the stain with a colourless cleaning agent. If the stain does not disappear, you can use a kitchen sponge. Let the stain dry for 24 hours and then treat with the recommended oil/soap.

IMPORTANT!

Oil-soaked cloths can self-ignite. Used cloths should be incinerated or stored in a glass container with an airtight lid. The oil should be stored out of reach of children and in a dry, frost-free location.

Vegetable oil neutral

Worktops are treated at the factory with neutral vegetable oil without hardener. Slabs treated with neutral vegetable oil will become slightly darker and more yellow over time.

It is of the utmost importance that the worktop is correctly saturated from the beginning.

The worktop is re-treated with neutral wood maintenance oil

First treatment should be after installation and then 2-3 treatments should be carried out within the first month. Thereafter, 2-3 times a year or as needed.

You can carry out a water droplet test to determine whether the worktop needs treatment:

Sprinkle a few drops of water onto the slab. If the water beads like it would on a newly waxed car, the slab is saturated.

If, on the other hand, water penetrates into the slab, it needs to be treated.

Keep in mind that end grain wood requires extra maintenance.

- Neutral wood maintenance oil is spread with a lint-free cloth or polishing pad in a thin, even layer across the worktop, working in the direction of the wood grain. Remember to shake the bottle before use.
- Wait 5 minutes while the oil penetrates into the wood. During this period, excess oil should be spread to any areas where there may not be enough oil, as the wood has different levels of capillary action. It is a good idea to lightly sand in the wet oil using sandpaper with grit 180/240 or with a sanding sponge in the longitudinal direction of the wood in order to achieve a smooth and fine surface.
- After 15-30 minutes, the excess oil is dried with a lint-free cloth. The surface should be completely free of oil. Repeat drying multiple times if oil remains on the worktop.
- Then leave the worktop untouched for 1/2 a day.
- It is recommended that the slab is then maintained 2-3 times a year or as needed.

Also see our online maintenance video on www.youtube.com/SPEKVA

SPEKVA neutral wood maintenance oil is available for purchase wherever you bought your worktop, or can be ordered directly on www.spekva-shop.dk.

Luxury oil

The worktops are treated at the factory with luxury oil containing a hardener. Worktops treated with luxury fine oil will become slightly darker and more yellow over time.

The worktop is re-treated with neutral wood maintenance oil

The worktop is ready for use after installation. Then apply oil approximately 2-3 times a year or as needed.

You can carry out a water droplet test to determine whether the worktop needs treatment. Sprinkle a few drops of water onto the slab. If the water beads like it would on a newly waxed car, the slab is saturated. If, on the other hand, water penetrates into the slab, it needs to be treated. Keep in mind that end grain wood requires extra maintenance.

- Neutral wood maintenance oil is spread with a lint-free cloth or polishing pad in a thin, even layer across the worktop, working in the direction of the wood grain. Remember to shake the bottle before use.
- Wait 5 minutes while the oil penetrates into the wood. During this period, excess oil should be spread to any areas where there may not be enough oil, as the wood has different levels of capillary action. It is a good idea to lightly sand in the wet oil using sandpaper with grit 180/240 or with a sanding sponge in the longitudinal direction of the wood in order to achieve a smooth and fine surface.
- After 15-30 minutes, the excess oil is dried with a lint-free cloth. The surface should be completely free of oil. Repeat drying multiple times if oil remains on the worktop.
- Then leave the worktop untouched for 1/2 a day.
- It is recommended that the slab is then maintained 2-3 times a year or as needed.

Also see our online maintenance video on www.youtube.com/SPEKVA

SPEKVA wood maintenance oil is available for purchase wherever you bought your worktop, or can be ordered directly on www.spekva-shop.dk.

Luxury oil white/grey/vintage

Pigmented worktops after treatment in the factory with white, grey or vintage luxury oil, which provides a beautiful, uniform surface and at the same time brings out the structure of the wood. If your worktop is treated with white/grey/vintage luxury oil, it will remain pigmented.

The worktop is re-treated with white/grey/vintage wood maintenance oil.

It is of the utmost importance that the worktop be correctly saturated from the beginning. First treatment should be after installation and then 2-3 treatments should be carried out within the first month. Thereafter, 2-3 times a year or as needed.

You can carry out a water droplet test to determine whether the worktop needs treatment. Sprinkle a few drops of water onto the slab. If the water beads like it would on a newly waxed car, the slab is saturated. If, on the other hand, water penetrates into the slab, it needs to be treated. Keep in mind that end grain wood requires extra maintenance.

- White/grey/vintage wood maintenance oil is spread with a lint-free cloth or polishing pad in a thin, even layer across the worktop, working in the direction of the wood grain. Be careful when spreading the pigments. Remember to shake the bottle before use.
- Wait 5 minutes while the oil penetrates into the wood. During this period, excess oil should be spread to any areas where there may not be enough oil, as the wood has different levels of capillary action. It is a good idea to lightly sand in the wet oil using sandpaper with grit 180/240 or with a sanding sponge in the longitudinal direction of the wood in order to achieve a smooth and fine surface.
- After 15-30 minutes, the excess oil is dried with a lint-free cloth. The surface should be completely free of oil. Repeat drying multiple times if oil remains on the worktop.
- Then leave the worktop untouched for 1/2 a day.
- It is recommended that the slab is then maintained 2-3 times a year or as needed.

Also see our online maintenance video on www.youtube.com/SPEKVA

SPEKVA white/grey wood maintenance oil is available for purchase wherever you bought your worktop, or can be ordered directly on www.spekva-shop.dk.

Black & Mocca stain – Luxury oil

Black-stained oiled worktops are treated in the factory with stain and then with luxury oil.

The stain is a surface treatment that should not be confused with deep treatment. You must NOT, therefore, polish stained slabs.

Uneven wear/discolouration may occur on a surface treatment.
The product may cause marking until saturated with oil.

The worktop is re-treated with neutral wood

maintenance oil

The worktop should be maintained 2-3 times a year or as needed.

Included in the maintenance kit is also a repair kit that can be used to fix scratches and small scrapes. Remember to finish by oiling.

Also see our online video on surface repair on www.youtube.com/SPEKVA

SPEKVA wood maintenance oil neutral is available for purchase wherever you bought your worktop, or can be ordered directly on www.spekva-shop.dk.

River Washed

River Washed worktops are slabs where the soft tissue in the wood has been weathered, so they take on a rustic appearance, almost like a tree that has been salvaged from a river.

River Washed slabs are cleaned with a soft brush. A harder brush (such as a scouring brush) is used on stains - remember to treat afterwards.

The worktop is re-treated with the selected surface treatment.

Instructions for these products must be followed according to whether the slab has been treated with soap or oil.

SPEKVA care products are available for purchase wherever you bought your worktop, or can be ordered directly on www.spekva-shop.dk.

Natural soap

Solid wood worktops treated with soap have undergone pre-treatment at the factory in which the worktops are initially saturated with a soap solution. If your worktop has been treated with Natural soap, it will become slightly darker and more yellow over time.

The worktop should be re-treated with Natural soap.

It is of the utmost importance that the worktop is correctly saturated from the beginning. First treatment should be after installation and then 2-3 treatments should be carried out within the first month. This should be followed by treatments 2-3 times a year or otherwise as needed.

If the worktop's surface seems uneven or mottled, it needs maintenance. Keep in mind that end grain wood requires extra maintenance.

- Create a 1:20 soap solution of Natural soap and water. Apply the soap solution with a polishing pad or a sponge/brush in a thin layer. Remember to shake the bottle before use.
- Wait 15 minutes while the soap penetrates into the wood. During this period, excess soap should be spread to any areas where there may not be enough soap, as the wood has different levels of capillary action.
- Excess soap should then be dried off using a lint-free cloth. The surface should be completely free of soap. If worktops appear rough after drying, a light polishing in the wood's longitudinal direction using the polishing pad is recommended.
- It is recommended that the slab is then maintained 2-3 times a year or as needed.

SPEKVA Natural soap is available for purchase wherever you bought your worktop, or can be ordered directly on www.spekva-shop.dk.

White natural soap

Solid wood worktops treated with soap have undergone pre-treatment at the factory in which the worktops are initially saturated with a soap solution. If your worktop is treated with white natural soap, it will remain light.

The worktop should be re-treated with white natural soap.

It is of the utmost importance that the worktop is correctly saturated from the beginning. First treatment should be after installation and then 2-3 treatments should be carried out within the first month. This should be followed by treatments 2-3 times a year or otherwise as needed.

If the worktop's surface seems uneven or mottled, it needs maintenance. Keep in mind that end grain wood requires extra maintenance.

- Create a 1:10 soap solution of white natural soap and water. Apply the soap solution with a polishing pad or a sponge/brush in a thin layer. Be careful when spreading the pigments. Remember to shake the bottle before use.
- Wait 15 minutes while the soap penetrates into the wood. During this period, excess soap should be spread to any areas where there may not be enough soap, as the wood has different levels of capillary action.
- Excess soap should then be dried off using a lint-free cloth. The surface should be completely free of soap. If worktops appear rough after drying, a light polishing in the wood's longitudinal direction using the polishing pad is recommended.
- It is recommended that the slab is then maintained 2-3 times a year or as needed.

SPEKVA Natural soap white is available for purchase wherever you bought your worktop, or can be ordered directly on www.spekva-shop.dk.

Stain – matt varnish (Temptation)

Stained, varnished worktops are treated at the factory with a water-based stain and then re-treated with a matt varnish.

The stain is a surface treatment that should not be confused with deep treatment. You must NOT, therefore, polish stained slabs.

Varnished products do not require subsequent treatment. Mild cleaning agents and a hard, wrung-out cloth are recommended for daily cleaning.

- Avoid prolonged water contact on the slabs, such as from cloths, cups, vases, etc. Spilled liquids should be dried up immediately.
- Do not use scouring pads, abrasive cleaning agents, scouring pads, concentrated soaps/detergents containing scouring powder, or soft soap ("brown soap"), as these can damage the varnished surface.
- The surface must not be exposed to the effects of heat.
- A stained and varnished product cannot be repaired immediately.

If damage has occurred, see www.spekva.com or contact your retailer.

Also see our online video on improving blemishes on varnished surfaces on www.youtube.com/SPEKVA

Varnish

Varnished solid wood worktops are varnished on the top and bottom sides at the factory.

A varnished worktop takes 8-10 days after production to completely cure, so caution is therefore recommended when using a slab that is new.

Varnished products do not require subsequent treatment.

Mild cleaning agents and a hard, wrung-out cloth are recommended for daily cleaning.

- Avoid prolonged water contact on the slabs, such as from cloths, cups, vases, etc.
- Spilled liquids should be dried up immediately.
- Do not use scouring pads, abrasive cleaning agents, scouring pads, concentrated soaps/detergents containing scouring powder, or soft soap ("brown soap"), as these can damage the varnished surface.
- Varnished surfaces must not be exposed to the effects of heat.
- A varnished product cannot be repaired immediately.

Colour maturation

Wood is a living product and will experience an initial colour maturation process, in which the worktop will gradually take on a more uniform appearance. The degree of colour maturation and rate of this change depends on the type of wood in question, choice of surface treatment, and the amount of light to which the slab is exposed.

Some types of wood will naturally have more variegated colour in the beginning, while others will be lighter.

They may therefore seem slightly different upon receipt than sample products used for display, which have already undergone colour maturation.

The colour maturation process can generally take from 6 months up to several years, depending on the effect of sunlight, oxygen, daily use and maintenance.

Warranty

Claims can only be made through the dealer from whom you purchased your worktop.

SPEKVA offers a 5-year warranty on the product, but we wish to point out that the warranty can be voided if maintenance and installation instructions are not followed.

If you follow our instructions, you will have a worktop that is not only easy to maintain, but that will also bring you years of enjoyment through its attractive structure and excellent functionality as a worktop.

Varnished slabs:

Damage to varnish caused by material or manufacturing defects are covered by SPEKVA's general warranty. Scratches and breakage of varnish on surfaces and edges attributable to normal wear and tear are not covered by the warranty.

Untreated slabs:

There is no warranty on untreated slabs, mitred joints and resold model slabs.

Otherwise refer to www.spekva.com, where you can find additional guidelines on care.

Typical questions and tips

There is a defect in my new worktop - what should I do...?

Contact your kitchen retailer and ask them to send a service report to SPEKVA. We will then evaluate the matter and take care of the problem.

When should a worktop be saturated (both oil and soap)...?

A worktop should be treated 2-3 times within the first month. You can carry out a water drop-let test to determine whether the worktop is saturated. Sprinkle a few drops of water onto the slab. If the water beads like it would on a newly waxed car, the slab is saturated. If, on the other hand, the water penetrates into the slab, it is not saturated.

How can I remove oil from cabinet faces and the sink...?

Use benzene, alcohol or turpentine.

I forgot to dry off excess oil - what do I do...?

Slabs may become greasy or viscous if you forget to wipe them off after oiling. If this happens, you can polish the slab with 100 grit sandpaper, followed by 150 grit sandpaper. Oil should then be re-applied. Some types of

wood absorb the oil differently than others, and in the beginning they may appear somewhat tarnished or shiny/matt. This will change over time as the slab is saturated with oil.

REMEMBER: Oil is combustible. Used oil cloths may self-ignite and should therefore be either incinerated after use or stored in a glass container with an airtight lid.

I dropped something heavy on my table and the impact left a mark. What should I do...?

Wipe away the oil in the affected area and drop a little bit of water into the dent. If the dent is on the edge of the worktop, you can use some wet paper towels. If filling the dent with water is not sufficient, you can try to steam the dent up with a warm soldering iron or the tip of an iron. **REMEMBER** always to have a piece of wet paper towelling between the worktop and the soldering iron/iron.

Also see our videos on maintenance, installation and repair on [www.spekva.com / guides / online](http://www.spekva.com/guides/online) or follow the QR link directly to our videos on YouTube (www.youtube.com/SPEKVA):



Typical questions and tips

My worktop has developed a split in the wood (surface cracks) - what do I do...?

Splitting/surface cracks are naturally occurring - the slab will close up again after oiling.

Surface cracks occur due to contractions in the wood when it becomes dry. This is why it is very important to maintain your worktop. For very deep crack formations, contact the dealer from whom you purchased the worktop.

My oil-treated worktop looks very rough. How can I make the surface nice and smooth...?

Polish with fine sandpaper (220 grit) in the direction of the wood grain. Then oil as you normally would. Buff in the oil to achieve an extra fine surface. The slab will be like new. Remember to oil the slab twice before putting it to use, in order to restore a protective surface.

My worktop is warping - what should I do...?

If the slab warps, this may be because the moisture equilibrium has become unbalanced. This can be remedied by applying moisture to the side of the slab on which the moisture is too low. The slab is uninstalled and "watered". If the slab warps like a "U", it should be wetted on the top side; if the slab warps like an upside-down U, it should be wetted on the back side. Moisture is applied by soaking a dish cloth or paper towel which is placed on the slab and covered in plastic, so that the moisture does not evaporate. After about 1 full day the slab is ready for re-installation.