

INSTALLATION & END USER CARE GUIDE

Butcher Block Top Care



INSTALLERS:

The laminated wood butcher block top has been fabricated utilizing continual quality control processes including maintaining optimum moisture content of the hard rock maple material from the dry kilns through final assembly. If installing this top over an enclosed base structure, the manufacturer recommends allowing a 1/2" air space between the base and the underneath side of the table top in incremental segments to allow for air movement on the bottom surface.

We recommend material such as yard sticks be laid on the base first and then installation can resume as normal. Without these strips and by restricting air flow, the moisture content may become uneven and permit the top to warp. Please leave this instruction sheet with the teacher.

END USERS:

The center joint has not been glued allowing for the natural expansion or contraction of this extra-large unit. You may or may not notice this seam in the center of the top or on the ends. This has been intentionally engineered for allowing the top to flex as environmental conditions change. The installed unit has been fabricated with the best design to maximize performance for many years.

On the underneath side of the top, steel rods with fasteners have been installed to allow for any periodic adjustments that may or may not become necessary. After a classroom has been vacated for an extended period of time and HVAC systems have been turned off, the tops may be adjusted to compensate for any warpage that may have occurred. In the event adjustment is needed, simply slide a 9/16" open end wrench over the nut and tighten (or loosen) all three bolts the same amount on one side to re-level the top.

The Tuff-Var finish applied to the top is a catalyzed lacquer similar to what is used in high use restaurant dining tables. It is impervious to numerous household solvents and liquids. If a spill does occur, please wipe and dry the surface immediately. The Tuff-Var finish requires no maintenance. The use of scouring powder is not advised. Surface can be cleaned with a light detergent and warm water, wiped off and immediately dried.

If the butcher block top is being used as a cutting surface, those areas affected with the scratches can be resealed using a mineral oil.

Warping: Warping is caused by a moisture content imbalance between the two (top and bottom) surfaces. Warping is normally a temporary condition as the unit reacts to conditions that surrounds these surfaces. Most all tops return to the flatten stage once they adjust to their environment. Placing plastic or glass over the top surface might cause the surface to warp. To alleviate that, simply remove the covering. Otherwise, just allow the top to adjust to the environment.

Splitting: Some small seasonal checks (splits) may appear on the unit as it contracts during low humidity periods (winter). Summer high humidity may close these checks. Season checks do not affect the life or use of the unit.

Do not store the tops in a damp area such as new construction where moisture from concrete and other building materials may get absorbed by the wood. Exposure to extremes in temperature or humidity will damage ANY wood product. This is not a manufacturing defect.

PROBLEM	DESCRIPTION	CAUSE	TO REPAIR
End Checks	Separation of the joints along the end of top or block	Excessive dryness, Not oiled enough	Melt a 1 to 4 mixture of paraffin and mineral oil and fill all cracks. Continue oiling.
Splits	Separations of joint along full length of top	Excessive dryness	Proceed as above to seal split. If condition continues, 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!
Warped	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	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
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.