

Maintenance of Solid Wooden Worktops



SPEKVA®

*- The natural
solution*

SPEKVA® A/S

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Solid wood - a natural product

First of all, we would like to congratulate you on the purchase of your solid wood worktop from SPEKVA® A/S and take this opportunity to advise you and how you achieve a long problem-free life of your worktop.

For generations, wood has created natural warmth in many homes - now it is your turn!

When you choose natural solid wood, it is important to accept 2 things. 1) the impact to which the wood has been exposed and 2) the special features each particular type of wood possess. These special features makes each product unique.

Depending on the type of wood, your worktop can be marked by knots, silica, minor cracks, scratches, shades or grains. These are not defects in the wood but natural and distinctive features left by branches and the conditions under which the tree grew.

Within the next six months, your solid wood worktop will mature and the surface will gain a more uniform colour. The maturing depends on the type of wood, surface treatment and the influence of light. Please note that in places where your worktop is exposed to direct sunlight, it will grow lighter, and in places of shadow, it will grow darker. Please also note that some types of wood may stain your clothes. Furthermore, you may be able to see some "Scratches/splits"; these are natural occurrences and can be sealed with wax.

Wood is a living product and will always react to humidity changes in the air, it is important that the relative humidity in the room is approx. 50%, which is the normal humidity in a room with a temperature of 20° C. As wood releases and absorbs humidity it contracts and expands. Indoor as well as outdoor humidity content vary according to the time of the year. If solid wooden worktops are exposed to a constant high humidity, they will expand more than the normal 3-5 mm in a 600 mm wide worktop.

The wellbeing of the worktop and of man requires a healthy indoor environment with a humidity of approx. 50%. We therefore recommend that you ventilate your home on a regular basis.

Right to claim

Follow our instructions and you will have a worktop which is easy to maintain, allowing you to enjoy the beautiful structure of the wood and its fine properties as a worktop for many years.

A SPEKVA worktop comes with a 5 year right to claim however, this right to claim will be invalid if our instructions are not adhered to.

The 5 year right to claim does not include any costs associated with removing and reinstalling the worktops after they have been fitted. If you have a complaint regarding your worktop, please contact your supplier. The complaint should be filed in writing not later than eight days after receipt of the product.

General

Do not place heat emitting household appliances, such as coffee machines, directly on a solid wooden worktop. Instead, place it on a heat resistant base to avoid discolouration, drying-out and cracks.

Close to hobs and over ovens with the constant high heat and around sinks causes the wood to dry out faster, regular maintenance is therefore required in order to avoid drying out, discolouration and cracks.

Always use table mats to protect your worktop from hot, damp or coloured objects, such as pots, pans, vases and flower pots. Always use a chopping board when using sharp tools.

If the worktop has an overhang, without cabinets underneath, we recommend that you maintain both sides of the worktop.

Your supplier will provide you with further information on the various maintenance products. Please also feel free to contact SPEKVA® directly we will assist you with information of the supplier closest to you.

Please also visit www.spekva.com where you will find further advice on how to treat your worktop.

SPEKVA's maintenance kit

In order to achieve the best possible maintenance of your worktop, it is important that you use the correct tools.

SPEKVA have put together different polish cushions and sandpapers that will provide your oil and soap treated worktop with the best possible maintenance treatment.

Our flexible polisher with Velcro tape makes it easy to switch between the tools.

The maintenance kit ensures that you get a protective and smooth surface and enables you to repair minor damage to your worktop.

Sandpaper:

The sandpaper enables you to minimise or completely remove any scratches, dents and other minor defects in your worktop.

- Sandpaper, 180 grain:

To be used for sanding the area of the minor defects.

- Red sandpaper, 240 grain:

To be used for final sanding before surfacetreatment or when sanding in oil.

Sanding your worktop will remove the surface treatment it is therefore important to give the worktop another protective layer and continue polishing.

Polish cushions:

The red and white cushions are used for maintaining your worktop. They are to be used for applying oil or soap. When using the polish cushion, the oil or soap penetrates more easily into the wood and provides an effective protection.

- Red polish cushion:

This cushion is rough and ensures that the oil/soap penetrates into the wood. When polishing with this polish cushion, you will achieve a silky surface.

- White polish cushion:

This cushion is used for final polishing. When polishing the hardened wax surface, you will achieve a smooth, soft and dirt repelling surface.

Caution:

Polish cushions that have been used for oil can self-ignite. Wash used polish cushions in detergents or keep in a glass jar with a tight lid.

Vegetable oil neutral

If your worktop has been treated with neutral vegetable oil, it will, over time, grow slightly darker and golden.

The worktops have been treated with hot raw linseed oil without hardener from the factory.

It is of the utmost importance that the worktop is properly saturated from the start. After installation, treat the worktop the first time and then give it two to three treatments within the first month and afterwards approx. once every three months as required. Use the water-drop-test to determine if your worktop needs treatment. Sprinkle a few drops of water on the worktop. Your worktop is saturated if the water pearls like it would on a newly waxed car. On the other hand, if the water is absorbed into the wood, then your worktop needs treatment.

Please remember that end-wood requires extra maintenance.

Maintenance:

1. Shake the bottle before use.
2. Apply a thin layer of oil using the SPEKVA polish cushion along the grains of the wood.
3. Leave the oil to soak in for approx. 5 minutes.
4. Disperse the oil in the areas of the worktop that appear "dry". Remove the surplus oil with a cotton cloth. Give the end-wood an extra treatment.
5. After approx. 15-30 minutes, polish the worktop with a cotton cloth/polish cushion. Polishing in oil leaves a very smooth and fine surface.
6. Do not use the worktop for approx. 12 hours.



Cleaning:

For daily cleaning we recommend a firmly wrung sponge or a cloth with mild soap solution. Remember to wipe the worktops after cleaning.

Caution:

Never use strong detergents, scouring powders, concentrated soaps/detergents or soft soap.

Note:

Do not allow surplus water from wet cloths, cups, plates, vases etc. to remain on the worktops. Dry up spilt liquid immediately.

Never use steel wool or rough sandpaper on the surface. If polishing is necessary, use very fine-grained sandpaper, minimum 180 grains or finer.

A more frequent maintenance is required close to hobs, sinks, and above ovens, dishwashers and washing machines.

Caution!!

Oil cloths can self-ignite. Burn used cloths or keep them in a glass jar with a tight lid. Keep the oil away from children and store in a dry place free from frost.

Vegetable oil white

If your worktop has been treated with vegetable oil white, it will remain whitened.

The worktops have been treated with white oil at the factory, which gives the worktop a beautiful white uniform surface and enhances the structure of the wood.

It is of the utmost importance that the worktop is properly saturated from the start. After installation, treat the worktop the first time and then give it two to three treatments within the first month and afterwards approx. once every three months as required. Use the water-drop-test to determine if your worktop needs treatment. Sprinkle a few drops of water on the worktop. Your worktop is saturated if the water pearls like it does on a newly waxed car. On the other hand, if the water is absorbed into the wood, then it needs treatment.

Please remember that end-wood requires extra maintenance.

Maintenance:

1. Shake the bottle before use.
2. Apply a thin layer of oil using the SPEKVA polish cushion along the grains of the wood.
3. Disperse the pigments very carefully.
4. Leave the oil to soak in for approx. 5 minutes.
5. Disperse the oil in the areas of the worktop that appear "dry". Remove the surplus oil with a cotton cloth. Give the end-wood an extra treatment.
6. After approx. 15-30 minutes, polish the worktop with a cotton cloth/polish cushion. Polishing in oil leaves a very smooth and fine surface.
7. Do not use the worktop for approx. 12 hours.

Cleaning:

For daily cleaning we recommend a firmly wrung sponge or a cloth with mild soap solution. Remember to wipe the worktops after cleaning.

Caution:

Never use strong detergents, scouring powders, concentrated soaps/detergents or soft soap.

Note:

Do not allow surplus water from wet cloths, cups, plates, vases etc. to remain on the worktops. Dry up spilt liquid immediately.

Never use steel wool or rough sandpaper on the surface. If polishing is necessary, use very fine-grained sandpaper, minimum 180 grains or finer.

A more frequent maintenance is required close to hobs, sinks, and above ovens, dishwashers and washing machines.

Caution!!

Oil cloths can self-ignite.

Burn used cloths or keep them in a glass jar with a tight lid. Keep the oil away from children and store in a dry place free from frost.

Natural soap neutral

If your worktop is treated with natural soap neutral, it will mature a little in colour over time.

All soap treated solid wooden worktops have been pre-treated with a primary saturation treatment in a soap solution.

It is of the utmost importance that your worktop is properly saturated from the start. After installation, treat the worktop the first time and then give it two to three treatments per week during the first month and afterwards approx. once every three months as required. If the worktop appears uneven or stained, it needs treatment.

Please remember that end-wood requires extra maintenance.

Maintenance:

1. Shake the bottle before use.
2. Make a soap solution of the natural soap and water in the ratio 1:10.
3. Apply the soap solution in a thin layer with the polish cushion or a sponge.
4. Leave the solution to soak in for about 15 min.
5. Remove any surplus soap solution with a firmly wrung cloth.
6. If the surface of the worktop still seems rough, we recommend a light polishing with the enclosed polish cushion along the grain.

Note:

If the treatment causes the fibres of the wood to "rise" (turn rough), it is necessary to sand the surface between applications.



Cleaning:

For daily cleaning we recommend a firmly wrung sponge or a cloth with mild soap solution. Remember to wipe the worktops after cleaning.

Caution:

Never use strong detergents, scouring powders, concentrated soaps/detergents or soft soap.

Remove dirt and stains with a fine sanding sponge and soap flakes. Wipe the worktops with a firmly wrung cloth after the treatment.

Note:

Do not allow surplus water from wet cloths, cups, plates, vases etc. to remain on the worktops. Dry up spilt liquid immediately.

A more frequent maintenance is required close to hobs, sinks, and above ovens, dishwashers and washing machines.

Natural soap white

If your worktop has been treated with natural soap, white, it will remain light.

All soap treated solid wooden worktops have been pre-treated with a primary saturation treatment in a white soap solution.

It is of the utmost importance that your worktop is properly saturated from the start. After installation, treat the worktop the first time and then give it two to three treatments per week during the first month and afterwards approx. once every three months as required. If the worktop appears uneven or stained, it needs treatment.

Please remember that end-wood requires extra maintenance.

Maintenance:

1. Shake the bottle before use.
2. Make a soap solution of the natural soap and water in the ratio 1:10.
3. Apply the soap solution in a thin layer with the polish cushion or a sponge.
4. Disperse the pigments very carefully.
5. Leave the solution to soak in for about 15 min.
6. Remove any surplus with a firmly wrung cloth.
7. If the surface of the worktops still seems rough, we recommend a light polishing with the enclosed polish cushion along the grain.

Note: If the treatment causes the fibres of the wood to "rise" (turn rough), it is necessary to sand the surface between applications.

Cleaning:

For daily cleaning we recommend a firmly wrung sponge or a cloth with mild soap solution. Remember to wipe of the worktops after cleaning.



Caution:

Never use strong detergents, scouring powders, concentrated soaps/detergents or soft soap.

Remove dirt and stains with a fine sanding sponge and soap flakes. Wipe the worktops with a firmly wrung cloth after the treatment.

Note:

Do not allow surplus water from wet cloths, cups, plates, vases etc. to remain on the worktops. Dry up spilt liquid immediately.

A more frequent maintenance is required close to hobs, sinks, and above ovens, dishwashers and washing machines.

Bio 2000 Neutral

If your worktop has been treated with Bio 2000 neutral, it will turn a little darker in time.

Bio 2000 is not suitable for kitchen worktops.

The worktops have been treated from the factory with one lacquer treatment followed by a special oil treatment.

Due to the lacquer, this surface treatment does not require much after-treatment, but the worktop may be freshened up with Bio 2000.

Maintenance:

1. Shake the bottle before use.
2. Put Bio 2000 on the white polish cushion and apply a thin layer of oil along the grain.
3. Leave to soak in for approx. 20 minutes.
4. Remove the surplus oil and wipe the worktop completely dry, no surplus oil must be left on the worktop.
5. Polishing in the oil leaves a very smooth and fine surface.
6. Do not use the worktop for approx. 12 hours.

Caution!!

Oil cloths can self-ignite. Burn used cloths or keep them in a glass jar with a tight lid. Keep the oil away from children and store in a dry place free from frost.

Note:

If the treatment causes the fibres of the wood to "rise" (turn rough), it is necessary to sand the surface in-between applications.

Cleaning:

For daily cleaning we recommend a firmly wrung sponge or a cloth with mild soap solution. Remember to wipe the worktops after cleaning.

Caution:

Never use strong detergents, scouring powders, concentrated soaps/detergents or soft soap.

Remove dirt and stains with a fine polish sponge and soap flakes. Wipe the worktops with a firmly wrung cloth after treatment.

Note:

Do not allow surplus water from wet cloths, cups, plates, vases etc. to remain on the worktops. Dry up spilt liquid immediately.

A more frequent maintenance is required close to hobs, sinks, and above ovens, dishwashers and washing machines.

Lacquer

All lacquer treated worktops from SPEKVA have been lacquered three times on all sides and edges.

Maintenance:

Lacquered products require no aftertreatment, but we recommend that you apply a little vegetable oil along the sink edges; this will prevent lime scale from depositing so easily.

Cleaning:

For daily cleaning we recommend a firmly wrung sponge or a cloth with mild soap solution. Remember to wipe the worktops after cleaning.

Note:

For daily cleaning we recommend a mild soap flake solution or SPEKVA's natural soap.

Do NOT sand the worktop surface as this will require a new surface treatment. If the lacquer surface is scratched or dented, the scratches and dents will appear greyish.

A lacquered worktop is not easily repaired. If it is scratched, we recommend that an expert evaluate the damage. In the worst case, the worktop has to be polished down and treated with a new layer of lacquer - or oil instead - and the worktop will appear as new again.

Do not allow surplus water from wet cloths, cups, plates, vases etc. to remain on the worktops. Dry up spilt liquid immediately.

Laboratory stain

The laboratory stained worktops have been treated with vegetable oil with a hardener in order to obtain the most effective and resistant surface. After that the worktops are ready for use.

Maintenance:

1. Apply a thin layer of vegetable oil.
2. Polishing in the vegetable oil will leave a very smooth and fine surface. Use the enclosed polish cushion.
3. Leave the oil to soak in for approx. 25-30 min. (the worktops must not soak in oil). Apply extra vegetable oil in the areas that dry up quickly.
4. Wipe the worktops with a dry cloth and then polish.

Regular treatment/maintenance is necessary. Use a cloth to apply a thin layer of raw linseed oil with a hardener. If the worktops absorb the oil only partially, you should treat the dry spots only for a period of time.

Cleaning:

For daily cleaning we recommend a firmly wrung sponge or a cloth with mild soap solution. Remember to wipe the worktops after cleaning.

Caution:

Never use strong detergents, scouring powders, concentrated soaps/detergents or soft soap.

Note:

Do not allow surplus water from wet cloths, cups, plates, vases etc. to remain on the worktops. Dry up spilt liquid immediately.

A more frequent maintenance is required close to hobs, sinks, and above ovens, dishwashers and washing machines.

Do NOT sand the worktop surface as this will require a new surface treatment.

Caution!!

Oil cloths can self-ignite. Burn used cloths or keep them in a glass jar with a tight lid. Keep the oil away from children and store in a dry place free from frost.



Frequently asked questions, and our advice

My new worktop is defective - what should I do?

Answer: Contact your kitchen supplier and ask him to send a service report to SPEKVA. We will then consider the case and take actions to solve the problem.

When is a worktop saturated (both oil and soap)?

Answer: A worktop must be treated two to three times within the first 14 days. Use the water-drop-test to check if your worktop is saturated. Drop a few drops of water on the worktop. If the water pearls like it does on a newly waxed car, then the worktop is saturated. However, if the water is absorbed into the worktop, it is not saturated. For further information, also see our maintenance instructions.

How do I remove oil from cabinet doors and sinks?

Answer: Use benzine, spirit or turpentine.

I forgot to wipe off surplus oil, what do I do?

Answer: If you do not wipe the worktops after oiling, they may turn greasy and sticky. If this should happen, you can sand the worktop with sandpaper, grain 100 followed by grain 150. After that you apply oil again. Some types of wood absorb the oil differently than others and may seem somewhat faded, shiny/dull in the beginning. This will disappear as the worktop is saturated in oil.
REMEMBER: Used oil cloths can self-ignite and must therefore be burned after use or kept in a glass jar with a tight lid.

I have dropped something heavy on my worktop and it has left a dent - what should I do?

Answer: Polish off the oil in the dented area and add a little water in the dent. If the dent is at the edge of the worktop, use wet kitchen roll. If the dent does not disappear, try steaming out the dent with a hot soldering iron or the point of an iron. **REMEMBER** always have wet kitchen roll between the worktop and the soldering iron/iron.

My worktop has minor cracks - what do I do?

And what is the reason for such cracks?

Answer: Minor cracks are of common occurrence - the worktop will contract again after oiling. Minor cracks occur because of tensions in the wood when it dries. It is therefore very important to maintain the worktop. In case of serious cracks, you should contact the supplier who has sold you the worktop.

My oil-treated worktop is very rough. How do I get a fine and smooth surface?

Answer: You should sand it using fine sandpaper (corn 220) along the grain. Afterwards you should oil the worktop as usual, you may sand in the oil to achieve an extra fine surface. The worktop will appear as new. Remember to oil the worktop twice before taking it into use in order to rebuild a protective surface.