

CLEANING LATEX PAINTED CABINETS

When to Wash:

Wait at least two weeks after you apply any latex coating before washing it to allow the coating time to fully cure. Low VOC products generally require up to 30 days.

How to Wash:

1. Always wear rubber gloves to protect your hands when following the steps below.
2. Use one bucket for washing solution, and one for clean water rinsing.
3. Use separate sponges for each bucket.
4. First, try washing or spot-cleaning painted surfaces with water. If this is not successful advance to a weak mixture of water and mild non-abrasive dish detergent.
5. If your cabinets are very dirty, use a stronger alkali solution such as two tablespoons of ammonia or two tablespoons of laundry detergent powder mixed with 1 gallon of warm water. Test these types of cleaning solutions in an inconspicuous corner first. If your cabinet color and finish look the same, but cleaner, it is safe to continue washing your cabinets with the solution. Know that stronger cleaning solutions may remove some of the pigment in the paint.
6. Begin washing at the bottom of the cabinet working upwards so the cleaning solution does not run down your dirty surface and cause streaks as these streaks can be difficult to remove.
7. When cleaning, rub gently in a circular motion to avoid damaging the paint.
8. Always rinse off any surface with clean water after using any type of cleaning agent.
9. After washing and rinsing, dry off excess moisture with soft absorbent cloths.

Things to Know:

- **CLEANERS NOT TO USE:** Most standard glass and household spray cleaners should not be used on painted surfaces as they contain strong solvents that can damage the paint finish.
- Darker flat paints are more susceptible to damage and pigment rub-off when they are scrubbed too harshly. This does not mean your paint is inferior or defective — once your surface is dry the paint should appear uniform.
- Paints with gloss and semi-gloss sheens withstand cleaning better than flat or latex paints.
- Paint may be affected when washed if the paint has not been allowed to properly cure or if the surface is cleaned with an abrasive cleaner or a cleaner containing strong solvents.