

Care and Principles of Hygiene

All our counters (all types of finish) should be cleaned with solution of mild soap and water. Counters finished with oil or beeswax will need to be retreated occasionally. When you notice that water penetrates the surface of your countertop quickly, it is time to apply either Bizzz^{MC} beeswax or polymerized oil in accordance with the existing finish on your counter. If you have just washed or disinfected your counter, you must let it dry at least twelve hours before treating it. Oil should be reapplied with a cloth. Wait five minutes, wipe and polish well with 000 grit steel wool, then wipe again with a cloth. Even though our products are non-toxic, we recommend that you use latex or vinyl gloves when re-applying the finish. **Polymerized oil contains tung oil, and could cause an allergic reaction.** It is very important to wipe off all the excess oil not absorbed by the wood with a cloth because this excess oil will form a sticky layer on the surface. If this happens, repeat the steps from the beginning. For a beeswax finish, apply a layer of Bizzz^{MC}. using 000 steel wool and polish with a cloth. **Important: cloths soaked in oil are flammable! It is most important to completely immerse them in water before discarding them in a safe place.**

From time to time, a wood counter should be disinfected. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency recommends cleaning the countertop with a **bleach-based disinfectant**.

To do this:

- Mix 5 ml (1 tsp.) of bleach with 750 ml (3 cups) of water in a clearly labelled spray bottle.
- After cleaning the countertops and utensils, spray them with this disinfectant and let it work for a while.
- Thoroughly rinse with clear water and let it air dry (or use a clean dish towel).

To avoid cross-contamination, never put cooked meat or food ready for consumption on a counter that has not been cleaned after being used to prepare raw meat.

If the counter has deep scratches, grooves or cracks which could hide hard to reach bacteria, please refer to the specific maintenance card corresponding to your counter's finish (look on our website at www.bizier.ca under wood countertops / maintenance and restoration.)