



# PROTECTING YOUR CABINETS AGAINST LOW TEMPS AND HUMIDITY

## INTRODUCTION

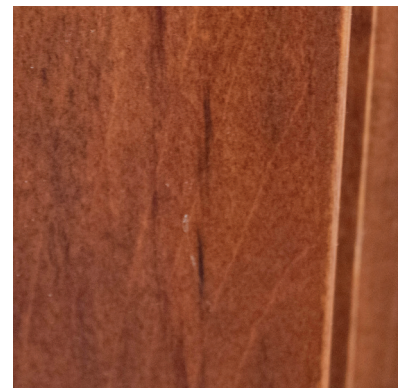
The purpose of this eBook is to inform you on what you can do to get years of enjoyment in your kitchen and bathroom cabinetry. The information provided will cover important considerations relative to the control of environmental factors and the proper care of kitchen and bathroom cabinets.

## Our Raw Material

It all starts with high quality hard wood. Wood is a living matter and because of this, the natural beauty of wood will reveal mineral streaks, grain, knots and other characteristics that develop in wood as it grows. Choice Cabinet hand selects the most premium grades of solid hardwoods to minimize these characteristics.

A significant amount of water exists in wood. It is important to condition the wood so that it will hold its dimensions so that it doesn't twist and turn or shrink and expand. This is done by removing a certain amount of the moisture in wood through a process that is called kiln drying. Kiln drying involves the careful removal of moisture through heat exposure in a very large oven. The material is kept in the oven for a number of days until the moisture level reaches a very carefully controlled and measured moisture content.

The material is now stabilized and conditioned and ready for production.



Example of Mineral Streaks

## THE EFFECTS OF WINTER

In northern climates, the winter months can create conditions within a home which can remove much of the moisture within a home due to the heated air from a furnace. As the outside temperature drops, so does the humidity level within a home. Low humidity levels inside a home can pull moisture out of wooden products. Removing the normal moisture content out of wood can cause shrinkage in specific all wood parts. This shrinkage will show up as a separation or a gap in cabinet doors where the stile and rail come together to form miters or mortis and tenon joints. The effect can also be seen around the edge of the center panel of the cabinet door where either an unstained line may appear or if painted where the paint has pulled away from the inside edge. Some dry home conditions can even cause cabinet doors to warp. The effect of dryness in a home can extend well beyond kitchen and

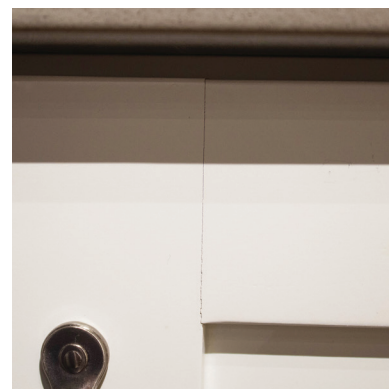
bathroom cabinets and can include window and door casings, ceiling crown, flooring and many other wooden trim applications in a home. Excessively dry homes have been known to even cause cracking or splitting in wooden doors.

Although this may seem alarming, a simple remedy is to add a whole house humidifier or at the absolute minimum a standalone humidifier. Restoring proper humidity levels in a home is not only beneficial to wooden products but also has health benefits.

Most cabinet companies will recommend that a home should have humidity levels maintained between 40 and 50%.

Once the proper humidity level is reached, the doors should return to their normal shape and size and the gap or seam separation will disappear. In other instances, it might be necessary to use a wax fill stick that is provided by the cabinet company to fill-in the gap or to touch-up the unstained line/ exposed panel edge with a touch-up marker.

It is not uncommon to make occasional adjustments to cabinet doors where they may have shifted or mildly bowed due to a change in humidity. Choice Cabinet has adjustable hinges that provide adjustability in 6 different directions for realignment.



Example of a Cracked Joint Line



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