

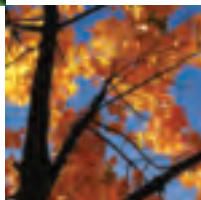
Wood Characteristics

A guide to the natural beauty
of fine Merillat cabinetry



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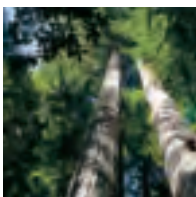


The natural beauty of wood.

You're considering a purchase of fine wood cabinetry with good reason. Nothing else is as durable and inherently beautiful as real wood. Wood is a naturally interesting material, highlighting the varying patterns and colors of nature. The differing grain textures and colors of wood make your home warmer and more liveable.

The carefully selected wood used in your Merillat cabinets is harvested, crafted and finished by some of the finest woodworkers in the world. In fact, a typical cabinet may be built with 25 to 30 separate pieces of wood. Each cabinet – like each tree – is unique.

Each cabinet is a unique product of nature.



Much like fine leather, glazed tile, or even precious gemstones, each piece of wood has its own unique traits. The type of soil the tree was grown in, the weather, even the amount of moisture and sunlight have effects on the graining and induce delicate color variations.

These subtle individual distinctions are part of the beauty of any wood product. Each variation makes the cabinet more interesting, and creates a sophisticated charm that makes your cabinets one of a kind.

Why colors vary



There are many reasons why the color of wood varies so much, even within trees grown in the same forest. The genetics of each tree play an important role, as does the soil composition, presence of minerals, moisture levels, the amount of sunlight on all sides of the tree, and temperature.

In addition, time and light have mellowing effects on the colors of wood. The colors will gradually darken or mellow over time due to aging, light and UV exposure. You'll likely never notice this subtle aging unless, in a few years time, you compare your cabinets to brand new ones.

The uniqueness of each tree



Glance out a window at a forest, or down a tree-lined street. You'll see that no two trees, even if planted together as seedlings, are identical.

Look at the leaves of a single tree in the fall. It's likely that the leaves will vary from brown to yellow to orange. So too, may the wood of the tree vary in color.

Why grain patterns vary

Trees grow at different rates depending on weather, water and several other factors.

Through the years, these changing growth rates affect the grain pattern –



tighter when growth is slow, and more open when growth is faster. You can literally see the record of the seasons and years in your cabinetry.

Responsible harvesting and manufacturing



Merillat purchases all of our wood from responsible growers who practice sustainable forestry practices. We take great care in selecting

our growing partners. After all, consistently beautiful wood is our business.

Natural wood characteristics.

There are many different elements that combine to give wood its natural charm. Here are some of the most common traits.



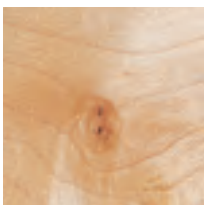
Burl Grain



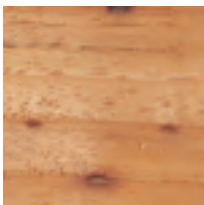
Tiger Stripe



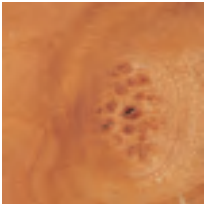
Bird's Eye



Knots



Bird Peck



Cat's Paw



Pitch Pocket



Worm Track



Worm Hole



Mineral Streak

Natural wood color characteristics.

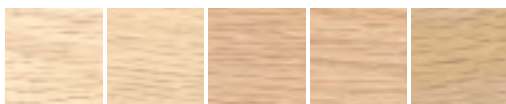
Each wood specie contains natural color variations from light to dark. The charm of fine wood cabinetry is the subtle, natural variations of color and grain patterns.

Cherry



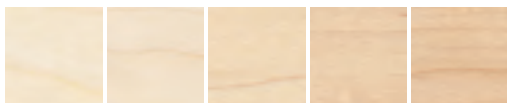
Cherry is an elegant, multi-colored, closed-grain hardwood. In its raw state, prior to finishing, it has a pinkish-brown hue with occasional shades of white, pink and sometimes green. Cherry is commonly characterized with pin knots, cat's paw clusters, worm marks and an open-end grain.

Oak



Oak has a prominent open grain that ranges in color from white to yellow and even reddish-brown. Sometimes there can be green, yellow or black mineral streaks and an open-end grain.

Maple



Maple has a strong, fine, closed wood grain that is predominately off-white in color. It can also contain light hues of yellow-brown and pink in its raw state. Maple can have mineral streaks, burling, bird's eye marks and grain variations.

Hickory



Hickory has a strong, open wood grain that is known for its varied and flowing pattern. There will be a dramatic variation of color. When finished, colors can range from very light to deep, rich browns on the same door. You'll notice swirling grain patterns, knots, mineral streaks and an open-end grain.

How wood mellows beautifully over time.



Wood naturally ages over time at varying degrees depending on the environment and wood specie. Several environmental conditions affect this natural aging process.

Conditions that affect wood.

- Ultraviolet (UV) light from the sun as well as indoor lighting will have a substantial effect on the aging of wood cabinetry.
- The amount of light exposure and its intensity will affect the rate at which wood ages and mellows.
- As wood ages it changes color, thus changing the appearance of the finished cabinetry.

It is very likely you may not even notice the color change since it can be a very gradual process – unless of course you compare older cabinetry to newly manufactured cabinetry.



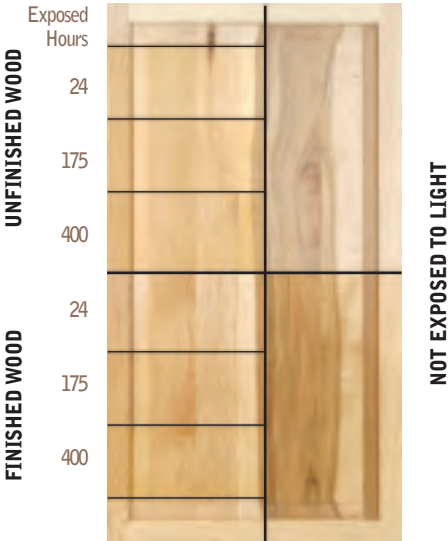


Shown on the following pages are Merillat cabinetry doors exposed to ultra violet (UV) light in a controlled environment.

- A.** The left side of the door represents exposure at 12:00 p.m. noon for a constant 24 hours, 175 hours and 400 hours.
- B.** The right side has not been exposed to UV light.
- C.** The top section of the door is wood that has not been treated or finished
- D.** The bottom section shows wood that has a finish applied.

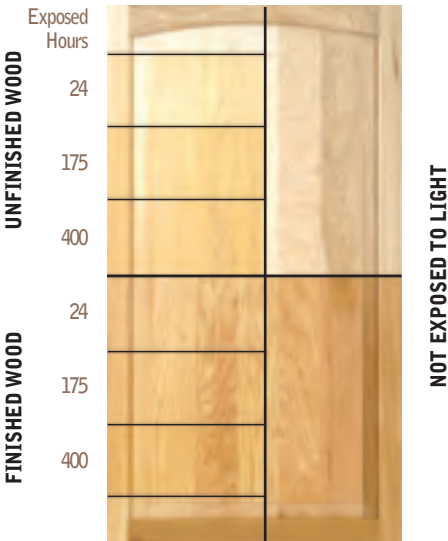
UV light exposure effects

Hickory Natural



Sutton Cliffs Hickory Natural
Solid Wood

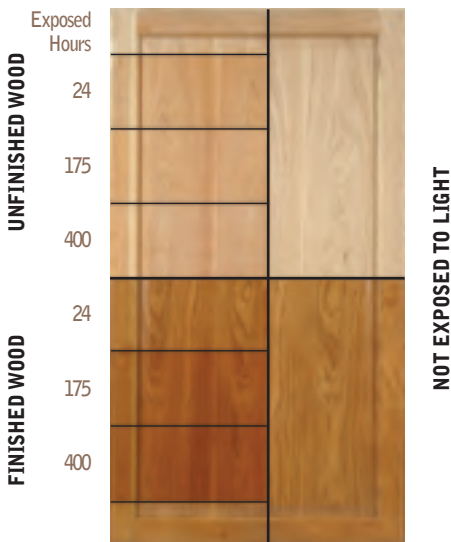
Hickory Cider



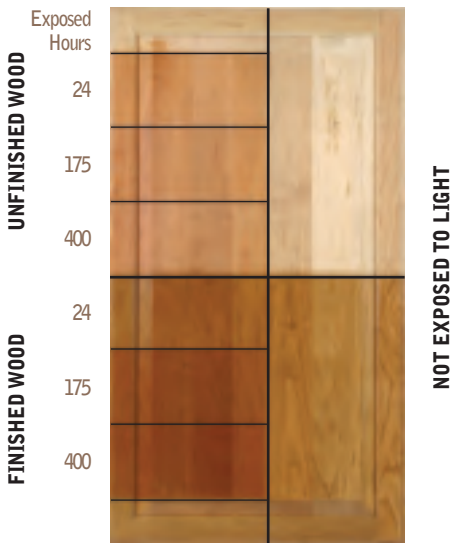
Sutton Cliffs Hickory Cider
Solid Wood

UV light exposure effects

Cherry Cider

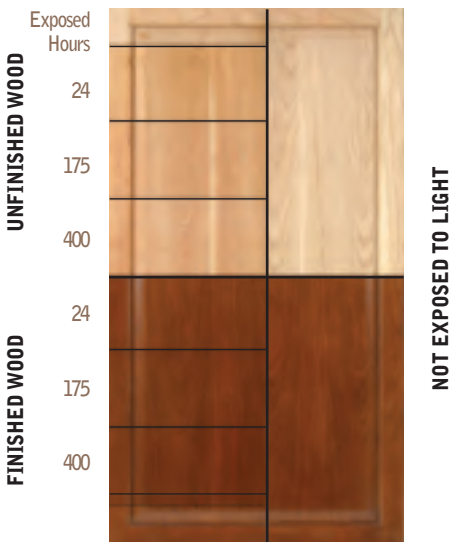


Seneca Ridge Cherry Cider Veneer

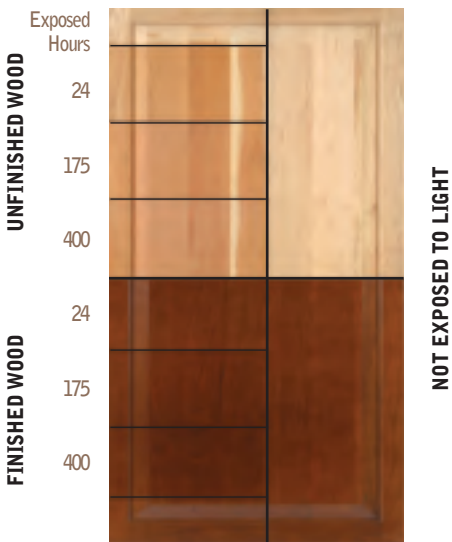


Sutton Cliffs Cherry Cider Solid Wood

Cherry Paprika



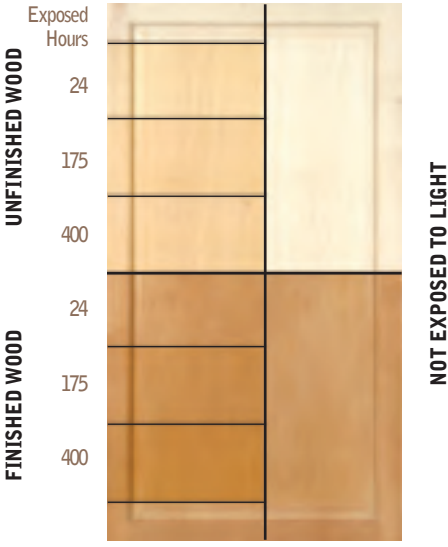
Seneca Ridge Cherry Paprika Veneer



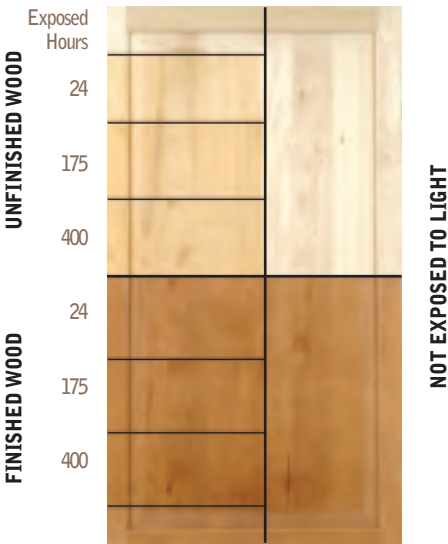
Sutton Cliffs Cherry Paprika Solid Wood

UV light exposure effects

Maple Toffee

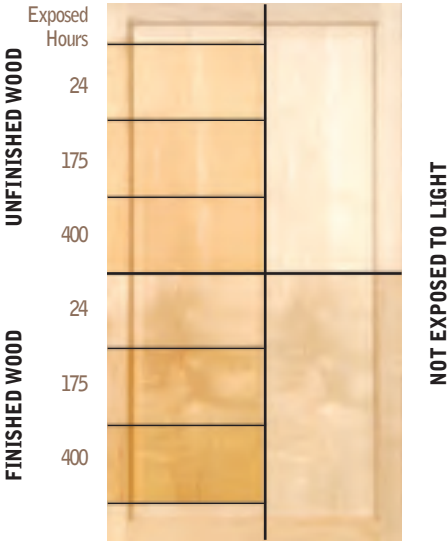


Seneca Ridge Maple Toffee Veneer

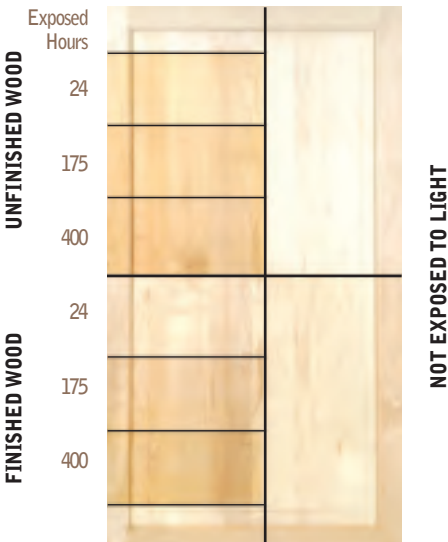


Sutton Cliffs Maple Toffee Solid Wood

Maple Natural



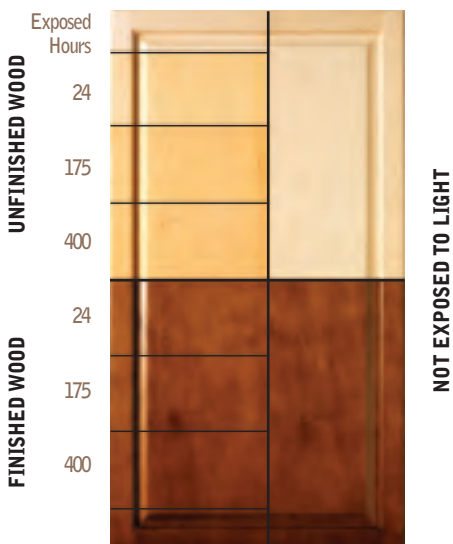
Seneca Ridge Maple Natural Veneer



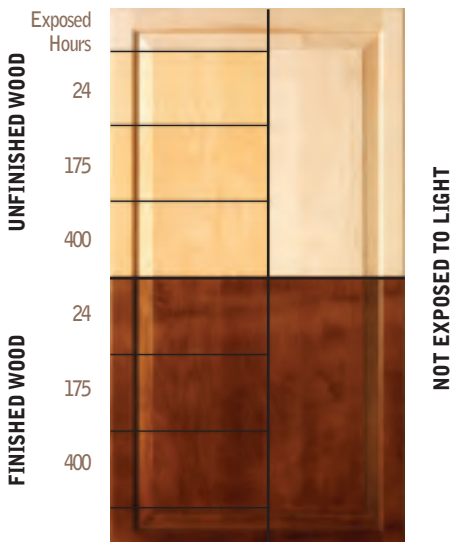
Sutton Cliffs Maple Natural Solid Wood

UV light exposure effects

Maple Sable

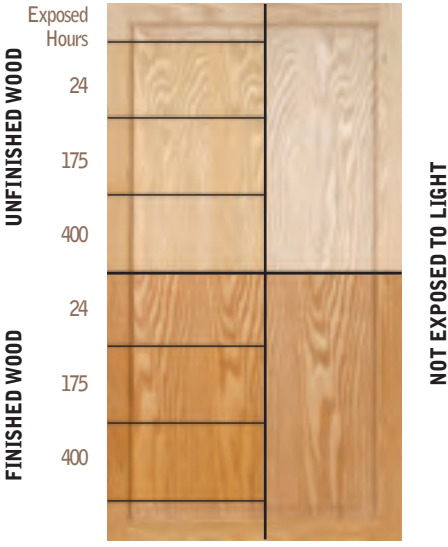


Seneca Ridge Maple Sable
Veneer

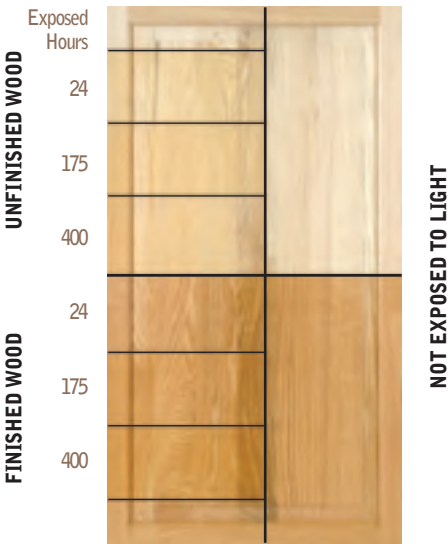


Sutton Cliffs Maple Sable
Solid Wood

Oak Cider



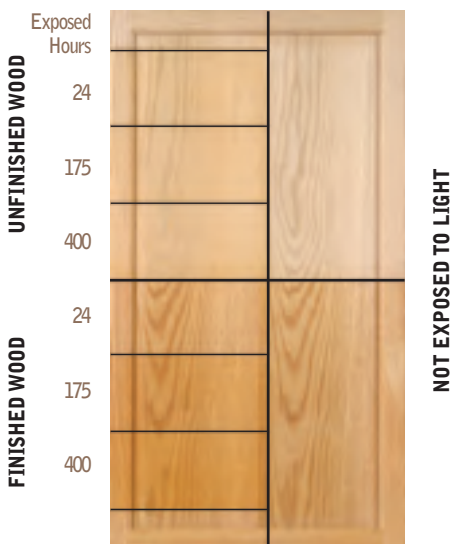
Seneca Ridge Oak Cider Veneer



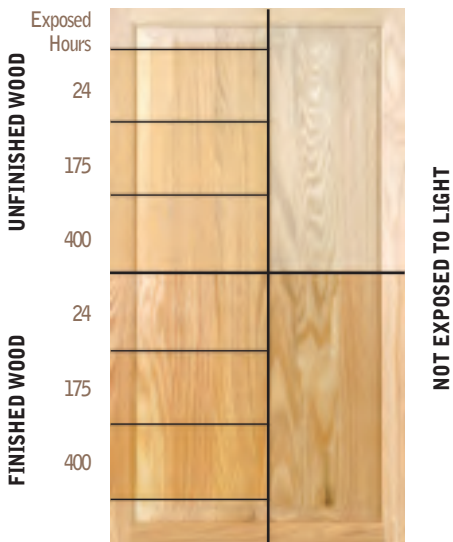
Sutton Cliffs Oak Cider Solid Wood

UV light exposure effects

Oak Natural

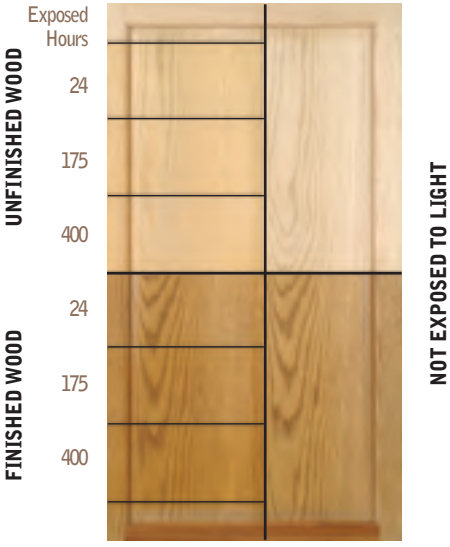


Seneca Ridge Oak Natural Veneer



Sutton Cliffs Oak Natural Solid Wood

Oak Medium



Seneca Ridge Oak Medium Veneer



How lighting affects the appearance of wood.

Different types of light will affect the appearance of natural wood products. It's important to understand that the lighting in a showroom will likely be different from the lighting in a typical home, and the types of lighting used in a home will affect the way cabinetry looks.

This "chameleon" effect is due to the ways that light is absorbed and reflected, and it varies depending on the wood specie, finish and glaze. Notice how the color and hue can change depending upon the light source.

Daylight

Incandescent



Cool
white
fluorescent

Warm white fluorescent

Cherry

Daylight

Incandescent



Cool
white
fluorescent

Warm white fluorescent

Maple

Daylight

Incandescent



Cool
white
fluorescent

Warm white fluorescent

Hickory

How to care for and clean your cabinets.

Wood Finishes

Dusting

Dust cabinets frequently with a soft lint-free cloth. You can dampen the cloth slightly with water or a spray-type dust remover.

Polishing

We recommend that you wash and polish cabinets once or twice each year. Use a light coat of quality furniture polish.

Spills

Clean spills immediately. Use a clean cloth and mild soap if necessary. Wipe dry with a clean soft cloth.

Cleaning

There are a number of products available for your wood cleaning needs. We recommend Guardsman. Their products are available at many stores nationwide, including Bed Bath & Beyond, Wal-Mart and Ace Hardware. A more economical way to remove grease build-up from cabinets is to use Fantastik. Apply and remove quickly, then wash your cabinets with a mild soap. After washing, dry thoroughly and apply a silicone-free polish.



Polishing

We recommend that you wash and polish cabinets once or twice each year. Use a light coat of quality furniture polish.

Don'ts

Never use detergents, soap pads or steel wool on your cabinetry. These harsh abrasives will mar the wood finish. Additionally, we recommend that you avoid the use of paste wax and polishes that contain silicone; the wax build up is difficult to remove and will leave a residue that attracts dust.

Laminate

Melamine and Vinyl

Periodically clean the interior and exterior surfaces of the door using a damp, soft cloth. Tough stains may be cleaned using a soft cloth dampened with a "Formula 409" or "Simple Green" type cleanser.



Glass Doors



Do's

You can use any commercial glass cleaner to clean the glass. Additionally, the glass can be cleaned while mounted on the door, or can be removed for better access.

While cleaning mounted glass, be careful not to damage the finish of the door and cabinet parts.

To remove the glass panel, carefully remove the plastic retainer strip and lift the panel out. The door glass is tempered to resist chipping and shattering. However, all glass is fragile so handle carefully. To reinstall, replace the glass panel, and simply press the retainer strip into place with your finger or thumb.

Don'ts

Do not spray glass cleaner directly onto glass or cabinet parts. Glass cleaner seeping into areas behind the mullions may discolor the wood. Instead, spray a small amount of cleaner onto a lint-free cloth or paper towel, then wipe the glass.

Preventative Care

If you have a self-cleaning oven

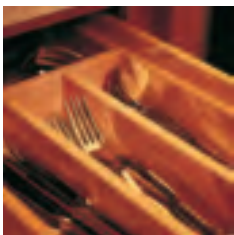
Self-cleaning ovens are cleaned through the use of intense heat. If the heat gasket does not seal properly, heat may escape from the oven. Cabinets installed near a self-cleaning oven can suffer finish or surface damage. To minimize the risk of damage during cleaning cycles, we recommend that you remove doors and drawers from cabinets that are above and adjacent to a self-cleaning oven.

Regarding placement of heat producing appliances

We recommend that you do not mount heat-producing appliances, such as coffee makers and toaster ovens, beneath cabinets. Excess heat and moisture from these appliances can damage cabinets.

Convenient Accessories

Did you know that Merillat has a number of helpful organizational accessories for your new cabinetry? We offer both cabinet and drawer accessories that are designed to fit perfectly into your Merillat cabinets. Visit www.merillat.com and click on *where to buy*.



Cutlery Tray Organizer



Cutting Board Kit and Waste Basket Roll-out



Tableware Divider

Cabinetry chemical resistance.

This chart indicates the relative resistance of the finish on your cabinets to many common household chemicals.

Rating Key:

- 1 = Unaffected; no color or surface texture change.
- 2 = Superficial; stains easily removed by a light application of a mild abrasive.
- 3 = Moderate; stains produce a slight discoloration. No appreciable surface texture change.
- 4 = Considerable; stains not easily removed. May result in surface etching.

Chemical	Rating*
Acetone	1
Alcohol (ethyl, methyl)	2
Beet juice	1
Bluing	1
Citric Acid (10% Citric Acid)	1
Coffee	1
Dye (e.g. "Tintex," "Rit")	2
Fingernail Polish Remover	1
Fly Spray (e.g. "Flit")	1
Gasoline	1
Household Ammonia Solution (10% Ammonia)	3

Chemical	Rating*
Household Soaps & Washing Detergent	1
Ink (Washable)	1
Mercurochrome Solution (water with 2% Merc.)	1
Moth Spray	1
Mustard (Paste from Dry Mustard)	1
Olive Oil	1
5% Phenol Solution in Water (e.g. "Lysol")	1
Shoe Polish (liquid or paste)	2
Soapless Detergent (e.g. "Dreft")	1
Tea	1
Tri-Sodium Phosphate (e.g. "Oakite")	1
6.6% Urea (Urine)	1
Vinegar	1
Water	1
Wax Crayon	1

*The chemical ratings were achieved in a controlled laboratory environment. Conditions, chemicals, and surface contaminants of cabinetry may result in varying levels of resistance to damage. Use caution when handling all types of chemical products near cabinetry.

Uniqueness guaranteed

Every Merillat wood cabinet is a unique product painstakingly crafted from real wood, not a manufactured substitute. I understand that each cabinet component will reflect this uniqueness inherent to a natural wood product. Due to the natural aging process, the samples and displays will not exactly match the brand new cabinetry I receive. In some cases, cabinetry will darken and mellow over time.

Signature

Printed Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Seller's Salesperson

Seller's Company Name

To learn more about wood characteristics and fine Merillat cabinetry, visit www.merillat.com



To learn more about our environmental stewardship and management system, visit www.merillat.com.



**Each cabinet
is a unique
product of nature.**



Merillat.

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Actual colors may vary slightly due to printing limitations.
We recommend that you visit your Merillat showroom to preview samples
for full color accuracy.