

**A.S.HELSINGÖ**

# Maintenance & Care

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## Kitchens

Our fronts are designed to stand the test of time. With good care, they will stay in exceptional shape for years.

Just like all wooden materials, the the painted MDF fronts are sensitive to water and steam. Thus, for instance a wet towel should not be kept hanging on the door, since it may harm the surface. The MDF needs to be handled with care, so that the edges and corners will not chip or get flawed.

Minor denting and wearing off can be repaired with a little paint. However, if the front gets damaged all the way to the panel, it becomes extremely exposed to moisture. In this case, it is best to change the door for a new one.

The painted and lacquered surface reaches its final durability after a month from the finishing. During this time, the surface is very exposed to damaging and excess cleaning should be avoided.

### CLEANING

Avoid detergents that are highly acidic or alkaline, as they might change the shade and gloss of the finish. Also, excess use of water, abrasive detergents and coarse sponges can damage the doors.

When cleaning a painted or lacquered surface, the best way to remove dirt is by vacuuming the surface, by wiping the surface with a cloth or a soft sponge and a neutral detergent, or after wiping the surface with a neutral or a mildly acidic detergent, rinsing the surface and drying it thoroughly.

Different kind of stains need different type of detergents. Fresh stains come out just fine by simply wiping with a wet cloth. Dried out stains may need a stronger detergent after which the surface must be rinsed and dried thoroughly.

Oil, grease and marker stains come out best with an ethanol-based detergent, such as denatured alcohol or white spirit. However, in those cases it is important to wipe the surface delicately as the dissolvent softens the finish and makes it more exposed to damage.

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## Worktops

The fine natural stones are porous materials that absorb moisture. This is why marble and granite, for example, require a protective coating and should be handled with care. Especially marble is prone to staining, and thus all highly pigmented food spills should be wiped off of the tabletop immediately. Do not let splashes or spills dry out, as they will leave a permanent stain. However, the quartz tabletop is very durable, water-tight and doesn't require much special attention. It doesn't get easily stained nor flawed.

It is good to use a cutting board even with a stone tabletop. Although, granite and quartz are extremely durable materials and do not get scratched easily, cutting directly on the tabletop will increase the risk of staining as well as damage your knives. The tabletop should also be protected from high temperatures, in particular quartz and marble tabletops, as unevenly applied high heat may cause them to crack.

The protective coating should be renewed once a year to marble and pale shaded granite. To dark shade granite tabletops the coating should be applied once or twice a year. The water-resistant quartz does not require a protective coating.

## CLEANING

Acidic detergents may damage the tabletop, which is why strong detergent solutions must be avoided. Natural stone is quite susceptible to abrasive detergents as well as abrasive cleaning tools. Even a small grain of sand on a washing cloth can cause micro-damages to the surface. Best way to clean a tabletop is to use a soft washing cloth with warm water or neutral detergent.

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## Taps

A neutral detergent or warm water is great for cleaning taps. After wiping the surface with a moist cloth or a soft sponge, it is important to dry the surfaces thoroughly in order to avoid stains and patching.

With regular cleaning the surfaces keep their matt/shimmering finish as it is. The brass and copper products will age beautifully as time passes. The brass can be polished with a polishing agent; however, the copper products should be left unpolished.

The surface of the taps does not endure alkaline, acidic, abrasive or decalcifying detergents. The tap nozzle should be however decalcified once in a while by sinking the strainer in the nozzle to acetum solution for a couple of hours. Use only silicone grease to grease up the tap.

## Sinks

Our sinks are made of high-quality stainless steel. The steel finish is durable, hygienic and easy to clean.

Use a mild detergent for daily cleaning. To grease stains and speckles of rust, it is best to use an alkaline detergent. Clean the more difficult stains by letting the detergent sit for approximately 15 minutes. After that, work through the sink with a soft sponge or a dishwashing brush with circular motions, rinse thoroughly and wipe dry.

If your sink is undermounted, make sure to clean the gap between the sink and the tabletop regularly. Do not use any abrasive detergents or steel wool, as those might scratch and damage the surface.

## Handles

Our handles are made by using untreated precious metals. When cleaning handles, make sure you are using a mild detergent. After cleaning with the detergent, wipe the handles dry with a cloth.

Because our handles are left untreated, the brass and copper will develop a beautiful patina over time. If you wish to have your brass or copper handles clear and shiny, you can clean them with metal polish and a soft cloth. Afterwards, wipe the handles with mild detergent to fully remove any residue polish. Be careful not to spread any polish onto the cabinet fronts. If this happens, use water and a mild detergent to clean off the polish.

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## Wardrobes

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If you have any questions or need help, we are here for you:

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