



ABOUT YOUR UNFINISHED CABINETS

The Shaker Unfinished (SU) cabinets exteriors arrive completely unfinished, giving you a clean slate to apply the color and finish of your choice. The cabinet doors and drawer fronts feature solid birch frames with birch-veneered MDF center panels. The face frame is constructed from solid birch, and the end panels are made from 1/2-inch birch-veneered plywood. All exposed surfaces are suitable for either paint or stain.

Birch is a stable, smooth-grained hardwood that responds well to a wide range of finishes. When painting, birch provides a consistent surface that takes primer and paint readily. When staining, birch can be prone to uneven absorption commonly referred to as blotching particularly in areas where grain direction changes. Using a pre-stain wood conditioner before staining is a widely recommended practice for birch and can help produce a more consistent result. Testing your chosen finish on a sample or inconspicuous area before full application is always recommended.

KEY POINTS

- All exterior surfaces* doors, drawer fronts, face frames, and end panels can accept paint or stain.
**SU cabinets feature a natural UV-coated interior; prep-for-glass (GD) cabinets instead have interiors that match the exterior finish.*
- Surface preparation quality is the single greatest factor in the appearance and durability of the finished result.
- Consult a qualified finishing professional whenever possible, especially for stain applications or larger installations.



STORAGE AND HANDLING



Unfinished solid birch is a natural wood product. Without a protective finish, it is more susceptible to changes in moisture and humidity, which can lead to warping, swelling, or grain raising. Cabinets should be stored and installed in a climate-controlled environment and should be finished as soon as reasonably possible following delivery. Prolonged exposure to unconditioned environments such as garages, unheated spaces, or areas with high humidity prior to finishing is not recommended and may affect the final appearance and performance of the cabinets.

Disclaimer: Any information provided in this guide is as a general reference only. We strongly encourage consulting with a finishing professional before beginning any paint or stain project. Please test all finishes on a small piece before full application.

SHAKER UNFINISHED FINISHING GUIDELINES

1 PREPARE YOUR WORKSPACE

- Choose a clean, well-ventilated area with stable temperature and low humidity.
- Remove all hardware.
- Label all pieces for reassembly.

2 INSPECT AND FILL

- Examine all surfaces for any imperfections.
- Use either a paintable wood filler or stainable wood filler for any holes that need to be filled. Allow to dry.

3 SAND THE SURFACES

- A light finish sanding in the direction of the wood grain will prepare the surface.
- Make sure to remove any excess dust with a tack cloth or vacuum.

4 APPLY PRE-TREATMENT

- Paint: Priming is strongly recommended for painting.
- Stain: Pre-stain wood conditioner is recommended when staining birch.
- Follow the products instructions and allow for surface to completely dry.

5 APPLY YOUR FINISH

- Paint: Apply thin even coats. Allow to dry before deciding whether to apply any additional coats.
- Stain: Apply evenly and wipe any excess per products directions. Allow to dry before deciding whether to apply any additional coats.

6 APPLY A PROTECTIVE TOPCOAT

- A protective topcoat is recommended to help protect against moisture, cleaning, and everyday wear.
- When applying, thin, even coats are recommended.

7 REASSEMBLE AND INSTALL

- Once all topcoats are fully cured, assemble/reassemble your cabinetry and hardware.
- Handle all finished surfaces with care.

**PRO TIP**

We strongly encourage to engage a qualified painter, professional cabinet finisher, or experienced installer, particularly for larger installations, complex stain applications, or when a high-quality result is expected.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The information provided in this guide is intended as a general reference only and does not constitute professional finishing, installation, or application advice. US Cabinet Depot makes no representations or warranties, expressed or implied, regarding the accuracy, completeness, or suitability of any technique, product type, or process described herein. Results will vary based on individual skill, environmental conditions, product selection, and surface preparation. All finishing and installation work is undertaken at the sole discretion and risk of the customer or dealer. Warranty coverage for unfinished cabinetry does not extend to any applied finish, nor to damage or defects directly or indirectly related to the finishing process, product selection, application method, or post-finishing conditions. Customers are encouraged to review their warranty documentation for complete terms. US Cabinet Depot strongly recommends consulting a qualified professional for guidance specific to your project and conditions.