

BEFORE



Monochromatic Design:
Custom Cabinets
White painted maple doors
Engineering stone countertops

AFTER

CONVERSION VARNISH vs. LACQUER FINISH—

When planning a kitchen project, the cabinet finish is one of the most important considerations. Conversion varnish is our finish of choice because it is an extremely hard surface that is resistant to water, alcohol, marring and scratching. The results may look similar to a lacquer finish, however, there are some key differences between these two materials. A conversion varnish can have a higher solid content of 40 to 60 percent by volume and a dried film density of twice that of traditional lacquer. It has a higher elasticity which allows it to hold up better through wood joint expansion. Though both finishes provide protection for wood surfaces, it is the conversion varnish that we use to succeed in providing a long lasting, durable finish.

Natural Wood Expectations

Joint Lines – Did you know that wood is in a constant state of expansion and contraction with changes in weather and moisture? As a result of normal movement, hairline cracks at the joints in the finish may appear on doors. This natural occurrence does not weaken or diminish the strength of the joints.

End Grain – Did you know that end grain surfaces are softer in composition than other areas of wood and they absorb more stain and often appear darker?

Telegraphing – The grain in wood is the identifying feature of each wood type and will “telegraph” or show through stain. Open or coarse-grained woods (oak, hickory) will telegraph more than closed or fine-grained woods (cherry, maple).

Mineral Streaks – In nature, mineral deposits may form in wood as a tree extracts nutrients from the soil. Common in many wood types, these mineral deposits may cause blackish-blue streaks in the grain. When a finish is applied to mineral streaks, it may appear lighter or darker than other areas of the wood.

Aging – Certain woods (e.g., cherry or mahogany) will continue to mellow and darken over time. This can bring warmth to lightly stained wood and increases depth below darker stains.

Some Environmental Factors – Wood products are typically affected by environmental conditions that may alter its appearance from what it looked like when it was new. As wood ages, the appearance may change or darken over time due to environmental factors such as interior lighting, sunlight and humidity.



BEFORE

Contemporary Style: slab doors, clean lines