



INFORMATION GUIDE

REFURBISHING KITCHEN CABINETS (and Tiles)

Introduction

At some point most home owners will face the need for a home renovation. Kitchens are a focal point in every home but often the most complex and expensive renovations you can take on. These projects can quickly escalate in cost due to materials and labour, and they may leave key areas of your home inaccessible for days, or even weeks. We believe that refreshing these spaces with a facelift, rather than a complete overhaul, is often a more practical and cost-effective approach that still give outstanding results!

Northane is the ideal product for this type of project as it is both food-safe and chemical-resistant, offering a fresh, updated look while maintaining durability. It works perfectly for timber and laminate surfaces and our factory can tint to most colours, so you can achieve the exact look you want.

Preparation

Proper preparation is essential to ensure not only a smooth finish, but also long-lasting results. A well prepared surface must be free from contaminants, sealed, and textured to create strong mechanical adhesion between the substrate and primer. To start, remove all hardware from the doors and either remove the doors from the cabinets for this process, or tape up and cover areas you need to protect before commencing.

Laminate:

To prepare laminate cabinetry, start by cleaning the surface with a damp paper towel and **Norclean-Plus**. Next, thoroughly sand the laminate with 240 grit non-clogging dry sandpaper to remove the glossy finish and create a keyed surface for better adhesion. Before priming, wipe down the entire surface again with **Norclean-Plus** to eliminate any remaining contaminants.

Timber:

For timber cabinets, repeat the same initial process as with laminate - clean with **Norclean-Plus**, sand using 240 grit non-clogging dry sandpaper, clean again to remove any remaining contaminants before you start priming.
Note: *If you have bare wood cabinets, you can if desired, provide an additional layer of protection by sealing the timber prior to priming using **Norseal Epoxy Wood Treatment**. Apply liberally using a brush or roller and allow 24 hours for the coating to dry, then lightly sand and clean with **Norclean-Plus** before proceeding with Priming.*

Priming

Priming is a crucial step when renovating cabinetry, particularly in moisture-prone areas like kitchens and bathrooms. Since the final coat will be **Northane**, **Shipshape Primer-Undercoat** is the recommended primer for these spaces due to its superior adhesion and performance in high-moisture environments.

Timber and Laminate:

For both timber and laminate cabinetry, apply **Shipshape Primer-Undercoat** using a brush, roller or spray. If you have a previously painted or stained surface you should only brush or roll the first coat. If spraying use 33% Northane Spraying thinners at 50-70 PSI with a 1.4mm Nozzle. If using a roller we recommend a 4mm microfibre roller. Allow a minimum of 16 hours at a relative 25 C (or ideally overnight) for curing. We recommend a second coat for timber cabinets, but for laminate, one coat of primer should be sufficient. The only variation to this may be if you are covering a particularly dark base colour with a lighter colour. Before applying a second coat, lightly sand the surface again using 240 grit sandpaper & clean using **Norclean-Plus** to remove any remaining contaminants.

Note: If brushing Shipshape-Primer Undercoat on a particularly hot day you may need to add up to 10% Epoxy Thinners to help with flow.

For more details, you can refer to our Shipshape Primer-Undercoat Product Data Sheet also available on our website.

Finish Coat – NORTHANE

When looking at a finish coat for a kitchen it is important to select a product that is long lasting and easy to apply, but at the same time, is able to protect the cabinetry from moisture as well as any other kitchen contaminants that may affect the surface, such as grease. **Northane**, being food safe and chemical resistant is ideal for this.

Timber and Laminate:

Before commencing your finish coat you should have already sanded and cleaned using **Norclean-Plus**. **Northane** can be applied using brush roller or Spray. If using a roller we recommend a 4mm microfibre roller. If spraying use up to 33% Northane Spraying thinners at 50-70 PSI with a 1.4mm Nozzle. If spraying you can use a wet on wet technique and spray your second coat after approximately 15 minutes – light coats only. Brush or roller allow 24 hours for curing between coats. We recommend 2 finish coats with **Northane**. Before applying your final coat ensure you again lightly sand using the 240 grit sandpaper & wipe down using **Norclean-Plus**. For more information refer to our Northane Product Data Sheet.

PAINTING KITCHEN TILES

The good news here is the exact same process as described above for Kitchen cabinets, applies to tiles. The only difference is in the cleaning. As kitchen tiles are more prone to contaminants such as grease and fats from cooking due to them being behind ovens and sinks, a more thorough clean is required prior to any coating. Give the tiles a good clean using a decent kitchen cleaning product and then **be sure to go over this initial clean with NORCLEAN-PLUS** prior to using primer.

Note: Norglass does not recommend painting floor tiles using this method.



These kitchen cupboards were updated by Simon Stevenson, of Simons House, using the method as described above.

