



## **DID YOU KNOW? – June 2010**

**This month includes:**

- **Cabinet Finish Options**
- **Merillat Rebate Offer**

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The KitchenWright has a Fan Page on Facebook! Please take a moment to join our existing fans. Via our Facebook page, we provide periodic snapshots of projects underway in our wood shop, share home remodeling tips, and links to valuable home improvement information. Read below for more information on cabinet finish options and a great rebate offer on Merillat cabinetry.

As always, let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Rob Davis & Curt Wible

### **Cabinet Finish Options**

As you embark on updating kitchen or bathroom cabinets, there are numerous decisions to make ... including the cabinet finish/color. Regardless of the finish chosen, the process includes sanding the wood surfaces, applying the finish (stain, paint), sealing the finish, additional sanding, and application of a topcoat to protect the finish from chemicals, scratches, and wear/tear.



**Stain** is the most common finishing option for cabinets. Stains come in an almost endless variety of colors and enhance the wood's color and pattern by penetrating into the grain or remaining on the surface. Stain is applied by spraying, wiping, or brushing the stain onto the wood's surface. The stain's penetration is dependent on the wood's grain structure. For example, hard maple has a dense, tight grain structure, making it difficult for the stain to penetrate deeply. Conversely, soft maple's grain is less dense and more open, allowing the wood to be stained very easily. Stain color is also impacted by the length of time the stain remains on the wood surface.

A **Painted finish** is also a very popular option. In many kitchen remodeling projects, clients are choosing stained cabinets for the perimeter of the room and painted cabinets for the island. Similar to stained finishes, there are numerous color choices for painted cabinets. When choosing a painted finish, it is important to use tight-grained wood ... birch or maple are preferred ... to prevent the grain from showing through the paint. Enamel is used to help ensure a strong, durable finish for the cabinets. A downside to paint is hairline cracks form along joints as the wood expands and contracts from humidity changes.





**Glazes** are transparent or semi-transparent stains applied late in the finishing process and are most often a complementary color to the base coat. Glazes are applied to both stained and painted finishes, providing character and depth to the finish. This technique may also be considered “antiquing” the cabinets, but is different from distressing. During the finishing process, a glaze is applied to the wood surface and then wiped off. While most of the glaze is removed, a portion remains in the cabinet grooves/molding details and in any natural wood imperfections. Alternatively, the glaze can be applied only in the grooves or corners. For a comparison, the cabinet pictures on the left are the same door styles and finishes as pictured above, but have glaze applied.



**Distressing** artificially ages the wood to create a look consistent with a period of time. Distressing comes in a variety of forms, including a crackle finish to mimic cracks in painted finishes, dings and dents to simulate wear/tear, rubbing through the finish to create a worn effect, and randomly placed wormholes.



**Thermofoil finish** is the application of a plastic laminate coating to engineered furniture board. The laminate finish can be applied to a variety of door/drawer shapes and profiles. Thermofoil provides a strong, durable finish. However, thermofoil comes in a more limited number of color choices and if damaged, cannot be repaired.

Finally, **Stainless Steel** can be used to create a very contemporary look. In this situation, stainless steel is applied over wood frames, so the door style choices are more limited. Stainless steel is a very durable and easy to clean finish.



## **Merillat Rebate Offer**

Now through July 31<sup>st</sup>, Merillat is offering a great deal on their Classic cabinet line. If you purchase over \$4,000 of cabinets (excluding tax and installation), you'll receive a \$350 manufacturers rebate. Stop in and let us show you how to make these savings work for your remodeling project.

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We hope you find our newsletter helpful. If you have any questions or would like to talk with one of our professional designers about a remodeling project, please give us a call (317-848-1111), stop by our showroom in Carmel Indiana, or send us an email at [info@thekitchenwright.com](mailto:info@thekitchenwright.com).