



Effects of Moisture in Cabinets:

Any solid wood or wood components will expand or contract with changing moisture and climate conditions. All wood is hygroscopic, meaning that when exposed to air, it will release or pick up moisture until it is in equilibrium with the humidity and temperature of the climate.

Humid Climates:

- Wood products located in humid climates are especially susceptible to expansion. As humidity levels increase, wood products will expand due to extra moisture in the air.

Dry Climates:

- In low humidity conditions, wood will release moisture and shrink or contract in size. In a dry climate, (or in a home that does not have a humidifier in the winter months) wood will shrink, exposing gaps at the joints where wood is trying to contract. This may result in the appearance of an unfinished line along the center panel. Koch and Company does not consider this a defect and will not replace doors due to this situation.

As wood expands or contracts, due to moisture content, it does not shrink or swell equally in all directions. Please note that just because wood is finished with a stain and topcoat, it is not immune to moisture. Cabinets will still take in moisture through contact with liquid or absorption from the air.

Seasonal temperatures and humidity changes (or situations such as higher than normal rain falls), can increase the calls dealers receive about the effects of moisture in cabinets. Teaching homeowners to monitor and control the levels of humidity can greatly reduce the occurrence of moisture related problems.

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Measures To Prevent Humidity Problems:

- Air conditioning, dehumidifiers and humidifiers can help maintain satisfactory levels of moisture in a home. Using a hygrometer will make it easy to check the humidity level; they can be purchased at a hardware store. We recommend a range between 35% and 45% humidity.
- During storage be aware that an acceptable level of moisture must be maintained, and try to keep the room temperature between 60 and 90 degrees. When new cabinetry has been stored they should be allowed to stand, in the home where they will be installed, for a period of time to acclimate to the surrounding environment.
- Density of wood affects how much, or how little, wood expands or contracts. Some door styles may be better suited for homes that are located in areas that are more susceptible to humidity issues. Vacation homes should maintain climate control when not in use. In an uncontrolled environment, wood is a dimensionally unstable material.

NOTE: Koch and Company's warranty is written with the expectation that cabinets will be stored and installed in a climate controlled environment. Warranty will be void if cabinets are stored or installed in buildings with extreme temperatures or humidity levels.

We want customers to enjoy their cabinets and working with them to avoid extreme levels of humidity will keep cabinets looking beautiful for many years.



Photo 1 shows that the stile cracked due to panel movement in the door.

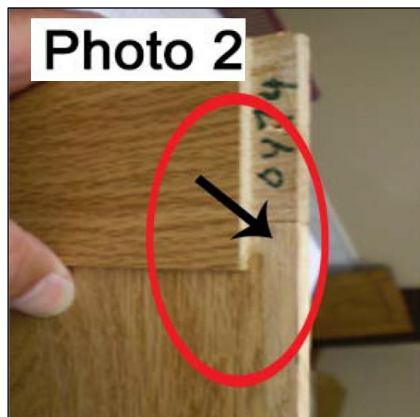


Photo 2 shows that the panel had expanded in width about 3/16" due to high humidity in the room the cabinet was installed in.

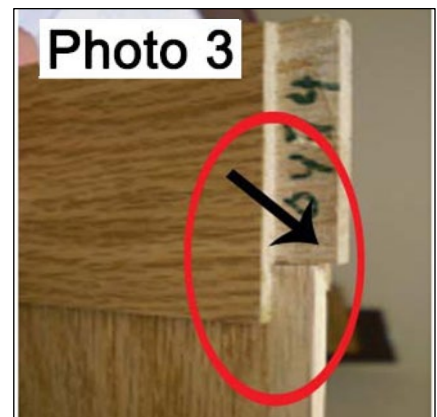


Photo 3 shows the panel lip contracted about 3/16", to the correct size, after the humidity was regulated to the proper level.