

The Kitchen Specialists Association

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KSA Advisory notice

Discolouration on finishes over time, particularly in the KZN region

The KSA has received, over time, numerous reports of various products in light shades or white finishes, particularly those products that include a resin content, discolouring over time.

The KSA would like to place on record that it is possible for all light-coloured finishes, particularly those with a resin content, to yellow over time; as they are exposed to the elements. This yellowing/discolouration can be seen in painted cabinet and interior doors, skirtings and architraves, bulkheads, various surfacing materials (including quartz and solid surfacing), PVC foil wrap doors, laminates, acrylic and crystal finishes, and even timber treated with a resin or catalyst-based lacquer.

We have consulted with numerous KSA suppliers and manufacturers, and while product manufacturers do all they can to try and avert this phenomenon; in certain regions, the environmental factors make it almost impossible. Over time – sometimes only after nine to ten years – the discolouration starts to become visible. The environmental factors in the Kwa-Zulu Natal coastal areas are particularly conducive to this phenomenon. The high UV light exposure, heat and moisture, as well as the sea air, are all contributing factors. We find the phenomenon most prevalent in holiday homes where the property is locked up and unoccupied for long periods of time; and those that have a high ratio of untreated windows without a window dressing exposing the home to high volumes of UV light.

It is important to note that most manufacturer guarantees do not cover discolouration linked to environmental factors. We would like to encourage all KSA members to bear this in mind when selling light or white based finishes that may have a resin content and ensure that the client is advised of the possibility of discolouration over time.