

Sincere Kitchen Cabinet Installation Guide

The beauty of wood

The richness of cabinetry begins with the wood. Neither synthetic nor engineered. Wood comes from the heart of nature — the simplest and most reliable resource. It is natural for wood species in all finishes to show color changes caused by exposure to light, humidity and temperature changes. If you chose wood cabinetry, you can expect graining differences and color variations caused by this natural process. It's part of the timeless beauty and warmth of wood. Understanding these variations will give you an even greater appreciation for the uniqueness wood cabinetry brings to your home.



Constructed from many pieces of wood, your cabinetry is unique and displays natural color variations. The lighter pieces were closer to the tree's bark, and the darker pieces were closer to its center. All are equally strong and enhance the beauty and value of hardwoods.



Growth rings create the unique grain patterns in hardwoods. Preparing the wood for use in your cabinetry brings out these distinct differences.

Trees absorb minerals and other essential elements as they grow and prosper. You may see traces in your cabinetry, some more than others. These natural characteristics let you know you are enjoying authentic wood and not an imitation.



All trees grow limbs, which fall to the forest floor as the tree matures. The tree trunk will always have a knot where limbs once were. Parts of the tree, knots and all, may find new life in your cabinetry. They have absolutely no effect on its durability and structural integrity. These natural markings are proof of the tree's origins and add to its character.

Installation Guide

To ensure a successful installation, please read these easy-to-follow instructions before beginning your installation project. If you have any questions, please contact your nearest retailer.

You will need:

CABINERY installation, care and cleaning 6

- Tape Measure
- Level • 3/16" Drill Bit
- Phillips Head Screwdriver
- Step Ladder
- Phillips Head Screw Gun
- Handsaw
- Chalk Line
- Carpenter's Square
- #2 Square Drive Bit
- Patching Plaster
- Extension Cord
- Pry Bar
- 2 "C" Clamps*
- Electric Drill
- Hammer
- Wood Shims for shimming cabinets up from floor, out from the wall or down from the ceiling

* NOTE: If metal "C" clamps are used, apply protective material between exposed metal and the cabinet face frames to avoid frame damage.



Don't forget!

- Shut off the water lines to the sink.
- Shut off the gas and electricity to appliances.
- Move all appliances (stove, oven, refrigerator, dishwasher, etc.) out of the kitchen to provide more working room.
- Remove sink.
- Remove old cabinets, countertops, baseboards and any molding when they interfere with cabinet installation.
- Remove old floor covering, if replacing floor. Important Notice Countersink screws when installing decorative hardware to prevent scratching the cabinet face frame.

Preparation

Remove all doors, drawers and shelves from cabinets to allow you to clamp cabinets together for installation. Check for uneven floors and walls, as this will affect the installation. Locate these uneven areas and then shim cabinets to make the installation plumb, true and square.

Check for Unevenness in Floors

Using a straight length of 2 x 4 and a carpenter's level, check the floor for "high" spots. Check all around the room within 22" of the walls where you will be installing the base cabinets. Once you have located the highest point on the floor, strike a level line on the wall all around the room from this point of the floor, using your level and chalk line. (See illustration.) We will call this the "Base Level Line."

Check for Unevenness in Walls

Mark the outlines of all wall cabinets on the wall to check actual cabinet dimensions against your layout. Using a straight 2 x 4, check the walls for uneven spots. Wall unevenness can cause misaligned cabinets resulting in "racking" or misalignment of the doors and drawer fronts. Remove high spots by scraping or sanding off excess plaster. Shim low spots with thin pieces of wood or shingles.

Finding Studs

Wall-framing studs should measure 16" on center for most homes. Use a stud finder or tap on wall to locate a "solid" sound. This generally will give you the location of the wall-framing studs. You can verify this location by driving a finishing nail into the wall. Make sure you do this in an area that will be covered by the wall cabinets. You can also check for studs near receptacle outlets. Mark the location of all the studs on wall surfaces. It is ok to use KraftMaid's install screws in metal studs.

Soffits

If you are building soffits, you should construct and install them before installing the cabinets. Soffits in a room with 8' ceilings are normally 12" high and 14" deep. The bottom should be a minimum of 84" from the floor to allow the use of tall cabinets. Make sure there is at least an 84" clearance between the highest point in your floor and any existing soffit. If there is not, it may be necessary to start from a point in the floor that will accept this height or cut your tall cabinet down. Also, note that cabinets deeper than 12" will require a soffit depth greater than 14".

NOTE:

When cutting tall cabinets from the bottom, the toe kick will not align with cabinets on either side. In some cases, you can cut 1/2" from the top. However, you cannot trim full-overlay styles at the top of the frame.

Installation with an Existing Soffit

If the wall cabinets are to be against a ceiling soffit, you should check the soffit for levelness. You can do this using a straightedge and level, much the same as finding the high spot on the floor. This time, you are looking for the lowest spot closest to the floor. Shim corner cabinets down to this "lowest" height closest to the floor.

Installing Wall Cabinets Without a Soffit

Measure up from the base-level-reference line 54", and place a mark on the wall. Using a level and straightedge, continue around the room, drawing a line parallel to the base-level line (previously found by locating the high spot on the floor). This 54" line will be the bottom line for most 30" standard wall cabinets. As an option, you can also use a 1" x 2" furring piece as a brace. Nail this piece on the 54" bottom line to help support the wall cabinets until you securely fasten them to the wall, using the supplied screws. After you remove the temporary brace, repair the small holes with patching plaster and refinish.



Install Wall Cabinets First

To make installation easier, you should install wall cabinets first. If you are unable to use the 1" x 2" furring brace, then use the 54" above finished floor line as a visual reference point. Raise the cabinets to this point, and use a floor "T" brace made from scrap lumber.

Start in a Corner

When installing a full-overlay cabinet, we recommend using a filler or starter strip next to the wall or soffit. This will allow doors and drawers to open fully without hitting molding around doors and out-of-square walls

Note:

If you are installing a wall blind corner cabinet, make sure you pull the cabinet out from the corner the appropriate distance as called for in your kitchen plan.

Caution:

When measuring the wall space, be aware that cabinets with front frames overhang the "box" by 3/16" on each end. Any measurements on the wall must coincide with the front frame measurements of each cabinet.

IMPORTANT:

If you are using decorative handles, it may be necessary to add a filler to the wall blind corner cabinet on the adjacent cabinet and to "pull" the wall blind corner cabinet farther out of the corner. This will provide a 90° opening capacity for the adjacent cabinet doors.

Transfer the measurements of stud locations to the inside top of the wall cabinets. Measuring down 3/4", drill 7/32" pilot holes at each stud location mark. Now, lift the cabinet into place and support the bottom. Using the supplied screws and a screw gun with a #2 square drive bit, fasten the cabinets to the wall.



Now, mark the stud location 3/4" up from the bottom inside cabinet. Drill 7/32" pilot holes at each stud mark and fasten the cabinet to the wall. (Note: 36" and 42" cabinets require additional screws through the center hanging rail.) Do not thoroughly tighten the cabinet to the wall until you have fastened the next cabinet to the first one, checked for levelness and shim if necessary. Take the next wall cabinet and repeat the installation procedure.

Once you have mounted the two cabinets, use your "C" clamps to clamp the vertical frame members (stiles) tightly together, being careful to line up the bottom horizontal edges. Now, drill a pilot hole through the stile of the first cabinet into the stile of the second cabinet. Using the screws supplied in the installation kit, draw the two stiles tightly together. (A little wax on the screws will help seat them easily.) You can now remove the "C" clamps.

Continue installing the wall cabinets next to each other in a similar manner. When you have fastened several cabinets in the line together and have checked for levelness, you can thoroughly tighten the screws holding the cabinets to the wall.

When installing wall cabinets, it is important to secure all cabinets together. If a wall cabinet hangs on the wall where both ends are open, it is extremely important to secure this cabinet to the ceiling or soffit studs with four (4) lag bolts (not supplied) through the front frame and top panel on both sides.

If there is no soffit or ceiling above the cabinets, you must install a support or decorative leg through the bottom of the cabinet to the countertop on both open ends for support. If this is secured properly to the studs at the top and bottom, the cabinet will be completely supported. Failure to follow securing instructions outlined in this paragraph could result in cabinets falling off the wall!

Fillers or Cabinets With Extended Stiles

If it is necessary to use a filler, place the filler or fillers at the ends of the cabinet runs or next to the blind corner cabinets, rather than between cabinets in the middle of the run. You should cut fillers or extended stiles to fit the space.



Cut valances to fit the space left between the cabinets. If you have a scalloped valance, find the center, mark half of the space required between the cabinets, then cut from both ends to maintain the same measurement on each side of the centerline. Attach valances by drilling and screwing through the stiles or end panels of the adjacent cabinets.

Install Base Cabinets

First, put the base cabinets in place starting with the corner cabinets. If you are using a base blind corner cabinet, pull it out of the corner to the proper dimension, as shown on your kitchen layout. Shim this cabinet up to the high spot line previously located.

NOTE:

Full-overlay framed-style blind corner cabinets with decorative hardware must be pulled out 3" from the corner to provide a 90° door opening. If you will not be installing decorative hardware, you only need to pull it 1 1/2" from the corner to provide a 90° door opening. In both situations, you must install a 3" or 1 1/2" filler to the cabinet adjacent to the blind corner

Base blind corner cabinets may be pulled as necessary. Each base blind corner comes with a 3" filler that must be used as an extension of the adjacent cabinet to provide necessary door and drawer clearance

If using a base lazy susan cabinet, apply a 1" x 2" furring strip to both walls at the proper height to support the countertop. You should screw these strips to the studs to provide support for the countertop once installed into the corner. It is usually better to fasten at least one cabinet in both directions to the lazy susan. Be sure you have shimmed them properly and attach the countertop brace described above.

Once you have positioned the corner cabinet into the corner, use the stud marks on the wall to locate the position of the screws for mounting the base cabinets to the wall. Drill a hole at the stud location through the back rail of the base cabinet approximately 3/4" from the top and into the stud. Attach the cabinet to the wall with the screws provided inside each cabinet. Be sure to use the shims under the cabinet base to bring it up to the level line, established previously. Install the next cabinet in the same manner.



Using your two “C” clamps, clamp the stiles tightly together, making sure the horizontal frame member rails form a level and straight line. Now, drill a pilot hole through the frame stile of the second cabinet. Use the screws supplied in the inside of each cabinet. (A little wax on the screws will help seat them easily.) Draw the two stiles tightly together. You can now remove the “C” clamps.

After you have securely fastened all base cabinets to the wall, reinstall doors and drawers, and check each for proper alignment. If a drawer front does not rest flush against the front frame, recheck each cabinet, assuring they are both vertically and horizontally level.

Fine-Tuning

At times, you may have to fine-tune your cabinetry after the installation. After all the cabinets have been installed plumb and level, place doors and drawers back on the cabinets. Install doors and make hinge adjustments so reveals between doors and drawers are equal. Make these adjustments before installing pulls or knobs.

Common Service Problems You Can Handle

The Troubleshooting Guide (below) will help you fix the most common problems. Other adjustment information is included later in this guide



TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

CONDITION	POSSIBLE CAUSE	REMEDY
Double doors on cabinet do not line up.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet not set level and square (racked). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loosen screws and use shims to make cabinet plumb. • Loosen hinge screws and readjust.
Door does not fit up to cabinet face frame at either top or bottom.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hinge out of adjustment or cabinet racked. • Door warped due to extreme dryness or humidity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure cabinet is plumb and level. Then, reset hinge. • Relative humidity level should be at least 35%. Install proper control in home. If the door has already warped, leave door partially open and it should adjust itself.
Drawer face does not fit flush with cabinet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawer glide out of alignment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pull out drawer. Rotate the tilt adjustment lever on the rear of each runner to tilt the drawer front. • Close drawer. Drawer should automatically reset.
Scratches, nicks and dents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mishandling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Touch-Up Kit

Making Adjustments

Hinge Adjustments

We construct our cabinetry with several types of durable, high-performance hinges that will operate smoothly and silently for years. Periodically, you should tighten hinge screws, because they can loosen over time with normal use.

NOTE:

Make adjustments with a hand-powered screwdriver to help eliminate over tightening, sometimes caused by power screwdrivers.



Drawer Front Adjustments

If a drawer front looks crooked, first measure at each end of the drawer front to see if the height is the same. If not, slightly loosen the screws attaching the drawer front to the drawer box. Make any up, down or sideways adjustments and then tighten the screws.

NOTE: This adjustment can only be made PRIOR to installing decorative hardware (handles or knobs)

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Specifications subject to change without notice.

