



A Guide to Kitchen Cabinets

Installing new kitchen cabinets is an investment in the practicality, aesthetic, and resale value of your home. We hope this is a helpful discussion of the various types of materials, finishes, trends, and construction options for kitchen cabinets.



What you see - the face of cabinets.

Cabinet Face Options

Cabinet faces are the surfaces that are visible to you as you stand in the kitchen. This includes the face of the drawers and doors as well as the visible surface of the cabinet boxes. This is mostly a aesthetic choice but there are many practical considerations as well.

A great place to start is to determine the mix of drawers and drawers. Using both is great, of course, and the placement and number of each will can make a big difference in the ease of using your kitchen.

Stained or Oiled

Stained or oiled wood faces can be both traditional or modern and everything in between. There are virtually unlimited combinations of wood and finishes to choose from. Wood doors have a nice feeling in your hands and a good solid feel. and simply involves making plans ahead of time for an on-schedule installation.

Composite Wood

Composite wood, such as particle board, is a lower cost option for when you choose to have a painted or laminate surface. Under paint, there will be no wood grain coming through so the surface will be nice and smooth. If you have a bad experience with particle board in the past you'll be glad to know it has greatly improved in durability and strength. custom-built experience, and that there may still be some prefabricated materials.

Painted Cabinets

Sainted cabinets have the advantage of being easily touched up or re-colored when you want to do an easy re-design the kitchen. Painted faces can be a less expensive option than many other cabinet face styles. Paint can be easier to damage and to keep clean but you choice of paint can make a huge difference in the durability of the

Metal Faced Cabinets

Metal faced cabinetry comes in many styles and does not necessarily have to be a hard and sleep look. It is popular to choose a clean stainless steel look or a tough smooth colorful finish. For ease of use and longevity, it's hard to beat the smooth, sleek, rugged and easy to clean metal faces. It's a great option that can be surprisingly affordable from nice-price, high style retailers like Ikea finish.

Alloy Architecture and Construction

Every great project starts and finishes with a great client.

Fostering a wonderful experience for our clients is at the forefront of what we do. We value transparent and honest client relationships and foster open communication between clients, designers, and builders. This starts with our focus on listening to and learning from our clients.

Our magic formula is simple: a great partnership between an award-winning architect and an award-winning builder based on mutual respect and years of successful collaboration that drives a seamless design build process.

The fun part - choosing the hardware

Cabinet hardware includes all of the handles, knobs, pulls, and hinges. It would be hard to dream up a piece of hardware that isn't available to buy. On a simple cabinet face, the hardware alone can set the style of your whole kitchen. Most pieces will be metal or wood but there are some other options as well.

It's easy to experiment with the styles and placement of the hardware before you commit to buying a full set. For example, handles can be at the bottom of high cabinet doors, hinges can be hidden or exposed, drawer pulls can be made to blend in or to be the centerpiece of the cabinet design. The perfect hardware doesn't have to be expensive but this is definitely a part of the design to spend what is needed to get the right look and feel for your space.



Not as fun, but so important – choosing high quality construction and materials

The nicest faces you can get can't do their job without a great foundation. The components of the cabinets are the boxes themselves (the "base cabinets"), the shelves, and the drawers and other pull outs. Like the faces, there is great range of quality and styles to choose from. It is important to choose the materials and construction techniques that will hold up for very long time, particularly in a heavily used kitchen.

It is all too common to find yourself wrestling with a kitchen drawer or to find the face or handle coming loose. The material and construction of drawers and other pull outs is extremely important as they can be the hardest used part of your cabinets. As a cost savings, drawers are often made of a wood composite that just can hold up to heavy usage. This is another place to focus on longevity more than on the budget.

Solid wood is an excellent base cabinet material because it is durable, easily repaired, and looks great. A solid wood base cabinet should last as long as your home. Composite wood materials generally a lower in price but can wear more quickly and will need to be well protected from the inevitable moisture in a kitchen.

How to get just what you want!

When off-the-shelf cabinets don't match your style or you kitchen layout, you can use custom or semi-custom cabinetry.

A semi-custom cabinet is for when you have an existing space or design a space that matches the typical dimensions of pre-made base cabinets. A good quality base from a supplier can be a great foundation for custom built cabinet faces.

When completely redesigning a kitchen custom cabinets afford you the luxury of not being restricted by the size and shape of stock base cabinets. It will also allow for easier installation of custom lighting, glass faces, glass shelves, and outlets and charging ports. This custom option is not necessarily more costly than pre-made cabinets and the infinite options for materials and finishes completely frees you to create the perfect space for you needs.

Alloy's Three Pillars

CLIENTS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS.

DESIGN SHOULD BE SIMULTANEOUSLY BEAUTIFUL, INTENTIONAL, EFFICIENT, AND PRACTICAL.

CONSTRUCTION SHOULD MAKE EFFICIENCY, EXPERTISE AND QUALITY ITS GOAL.

Time to get practical - storing and organizing in your cabinets.

While the cabinet facing sets the aesthetic mood of the kitchen, the usability of your cabinets and drawers can certainly affect your mood in the kitchen. If nothing else, soft closing doors and drawers will eliminate the banging and clanging of a busy family's kitchen. You no longer need a whole wall of cabinets in order to keep your kitchen items organized and easy to get to.

There are countless inserts, liners, organizers, and shelf layouts designed for specific purposes or just to vastly improve accessibility, particularly for high cabinets. Shelves and storage units that pull out are the best way to avoid ending up with the kitchen "junk drawer." Shelving that allow for reconfiguring the cabinet layout are a great long term plan.



Is it all worth it?

Beyond asking yourself how much enjoyment you will get from improved cabinetry, you should also consider the increased resale value of a kitchen with high quality and well-designed cabinets. Every realtor will tell you the kitchen and the bathrooms are a major consideration in the price of a home. In 2020, the Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association found that mid range and high end major kitchen renovations returned over 50% on the homeowner's investment. Building in cabinets that are long lasting and with a premium fit and finish will almost certain pay for itself, and more.

Contact Us!

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