

Installation Guide

June 12, 2005

A professional installation of your kitchen is arguably the most important phase of the entire project. A successful installation will showcase your cabinetry in its best light as well as provide many years of trouble free service. There is skill and artistry necessary to making a kitchen look great – a professional installer will have both.



- **Installer-** screws, screw caps, shims, blocking, cable stops, caulk, plywood (if necessary), tarps, masonite, building paper, drop cloths, and tools. See attached “Standard installation procedures/methods”.
- **Designer-** installation plan. Design review with homeowner and installer.
- **Cabinet Manufacturer-** cabinets and parts as per the design, touch-up kit (to include paint/stain and putty stick), set screws for hinges if applicable.
- **Homeowner**
 - ✓ Empty existing kitchen of all contents
 - ✓ Provide access from exterior to work area (remove all fragile objects – such as art, sculpture, plants, etc)
 - ✓ If kitchen is small – provide work area in adjacent room for staging and cutting.
 - ✓ Arrange for appliance delivery (ask your installer when is convenient)
 - ✓ Have all the necessary decorative hardware present at time of installation.
 - ✓ Safe place to store cabinets at job site. Storage area must be temperature and humidity controlled.
- **Contractor**
 - ✓ Prepare site for kitchen installation as per kitchen plan
 - ✓ Install all electrical and plumbing as per kitchen plan
 - ✓ Provide dumpster if applicable
 - ✓ Provide all appliance hookups to include electrical, plumbing, gas, ventilation, audio/visual cabling.



- Accept delivery of cabinets and move into designated area within home. The designer will be present for the delivery to insure the order is delivered complete and free from damages. ***Once accepted the responsibility of all materials are the homeowner's. Replacement parts for items that are discovered damaged or missing will be billed at any additional cost.***
- Prior to installation, the work area(s) should be partitioned with plastic and/or tarps (supplied by the installer) to prevent dust from circulating throughout the home. Masonite and/or building paper (supplied by the installer) should be laid to protect flooring.
- The cabinet layout out should be marked on the walls prior to installation to ensure that the site measurements are the same as indicated on the plans (supplied by the designer). Any/all discrepancies should be reviewed with the designer prior to installation.
- Check all electrical and plumbing locations prior to installation – report all discrepancies to homeowner, contractor and designer.
- Remove all packing materials from cabinets (if necessary) and dispose. Check and report any concealed damage immediately to designer.
- Doors and drawers should be removed from the cabinets to prevent damage and re-installed later in the process. Make sure to label each to its appropriate location. Many manufacturers fit each door and drawer to a particular cabinet and cabinet location.
- Cabinets should be attached to the walls at the studs (or blocking if provided). Screws (supplied by the installer) should be long enough to go into stud or blocking 1.5” and accommodate maximum shear strength (sheet rock screws are not acceptable). Screw cap covers (supplied by the installer) should be placed over all screws for a finished look.
- Cedar shims (supplied by the installer) should be used to compensate for walls or floors out of level or plumb (which is typical). Improper shimming will cause cabinets to rack (twist) thus causing doors and drawers to become misaligned. In addition, if the cabinets are not perfectly level – countertops will not fit properly, thus exposing gaps between the two materials.
- All fillers (supplied by cabinet manufacturer) and cabinets with extended sides must be scribed to walls to minimize/prevent gaps.

- If cabinets are framed construction screw to each other through the stiles. If cabinets are frameless construction, remove hinge plates and screw to each other behind plates then replace hinge plates. Pre-drill holes and countersink the screw heads to be flush. A minimum of three (3) screws per joint in necessary.
- The installer is responsible to attach all finished panels on appliances (refrigerators, dishwashers, etc) and secure all appliances in place as per the manufacturer's specifications. The contractor is responsible for all electrical, plumbing, gas, and venting hookups.
- Certain cabinets may need to be modified on site in order to properly fit appliances in place. Most common are the sink (especially if it is a farm style sink) and cooktop cabinets.
- Holes for electrical outlets and holes for plumbing and gas pipes will need to be made in the field.
- Installation of all moldings requires special care. All materials are shipped pre-finished in standard lengths (usually 8', 10', or 12') and will need to be cut and fitted on site. The miters should be painted/stained at the edges so as the cabinetry settles and movement occurs raw wood will never be visible. To ensure as little movement as possible all miters should be glued and then nailed. The most professional look is achieved with a power-nailer using very small finish pins. All crown and decorative moldings should be fastened in the least obvious places (creases, cracks, or lines). It is best to plan out the moldings before cutting to prevent waste and shortage. It is wise to cut the longest lengths first so if a mistake is made the piece can be used where a shorter length is needed. All base moldings should be scribed to the floor as necessary.
- Vacuum all cabinet and drawer interiors taking special care to remove all debris from drawer tracks (dust that gets caught up in the ball-bearings of the tracks can prohibit the slides from working smoothly).. Wipe exterior of cabinets with clean damp cloth.
- Replace all doors and drawers and adjust as necessary. If cabinets are framed construction with butt style hinge – be sure to install set screws (supplied by cabinet manufacturer) after proper alignment of doors is complete. Doors that interfere with adjacent cabinets and walls when opened past 90 degrees should receive cable stops (supplied by installer).
- Placement of all decorative hardware should be reviewed with homeowner prior to drilling. When drilling for hardware a wood block must be held in place behind the drill spot to prevent “blowouts”.



- Review the installation plan with the designer prior to beginning the installation. *Always consult the designer when there is a question.*
- Tool belts should not be worn during installation as they are a frequent source of damage to the cabinets. Any scarring caused during the installation process will be the responsibility of the installer.
- When other trades are working in the home it is a good precautionary measure to protect the cabinets at exposed corners with cardboard to prevent nicks and scratches caused by tools and materials.
- Be prepared to return to the job several times at different intervals in the process.
 - Some kitchens have cabinetry that cannot be installed until the countertops have been installed first.
 - Shipping damages and or factory errors are a common occurrence which can delay the installation.
- A touch up kit with putty sticks and paint/stain (supplied by cabinet manufacturer) will be provided. It is suggested that touch-up be performed as the installation progresses so a professional appearance can be maintained throughout.
- Broom clean the jobsite at the end of every workday. Treat the customer's home as if it were your own.



I have read the above Installation Guide and acknowledge its importance to achieving a successful cabinet installation. I will be sure that my installer reads this document and adheres to its contents.

Client: _____ Date: _____