

How To Install Wall Cabinets

Quick Start Guide

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Installing cabinets is an easy task if you work in the correct order and in the proper way. Be sure to watch our video series, How to Install Kitchen Cabinets, follow this article and your job should go smoothly every time!

- 1) **Prep:** Unpack all wall cabinets. Cut your boxes and use the cardboard to cover your flooring.
- 2) **Arrange:** Turn all wall cabinets right side up (some cabinets differ from top to bottom). Also, look at the shelf clip position to determine the “up” side.
- 3) **Sort:** Set all “similar” cabinets together. (i.e.: you might have three W3012’s). WHY? This will keep you from accidentally installing the “wrong” cabinet in the wrong place. *(you can skip this step if your cabinets are “finished” on both sides on EVERY cabinet and if your doors can be switched from left hand to right hand hinge)*
- 4) **Layout:** It’s ALWAYS a good idea to mark the locations of your cabinets around the room (including any fillers, turnings, posts etc). Always start with the corners and work outward. This will help you to determine if fillers are necessary, if you need to move any vents etc. etc. etc. Just a quick 2” vertical mark locating the beginning and end of each and every component around your room for BOTH the walls AND the base cabinets!
- 5) **Vent:** If you will need to move your microwave vent... NOW is the time to do it. If step #4 was done correctly, you can quickly outline where the microwave will go and you will know exactly where the vent will need to go.
- 6) **Studs:** Using a good stud finder... locate and mark your studs everywhere a cabinet will be screwed to the wall. *(We suggest the Magic Stud Finder which is available on our site. See: “Tools Needed”).* Be sure to mark your walls at approximately 36”, 55” and 84” off the ground. *(Using a laser level makes this job much quicker. Also, available at “tools needed”).* Note: The 36” marks will show up once the base cabs are set into place, 55” will show up once your ledger board is set into place, and the 84” will show up once the wall cabs are set into place. This makes screwing them into the wall a VERY easy task. ****If you are installing 36” tall wall cabinets, mark your studs at 90” and if you are installing 42” tall cabinets, mark your studs at 96”****
- 7) **Level Line:** If you are using a “Self Leveling Laser”... simply turn it on and adjust the laser beam up to 54” off the finish floor. Take a 1x4 or 2x4... Set it up right in front of the laser and draw a line at the laser line. Mark “OK” just ABOVE that line. This is a story stick. Move the story stick to various positions around your kitchen along the walls. We are seeking any “high spots” in your floor. If the laser beam falls ON or IN the OK ZONE... all is well. But if the laser beam falls “below” that line on our story stick... you will need to raise the laser beam UP. Once you locate the proper height... draw a long line on your walls (wherever cabinets will be hung). This will be our LEVEL LINE, which is 54” off the floor at the highest point in our kitchen.

Level Line: If you are using a “hand level”... Move to one side or the other of your kitchen. Place a small mark on your wall at 54” off your finish floor. Move along your wall about five or six feet and place another mark 54” from the floor. Continue until you have marked the entire area where cabinets will be installed. Now, using the longest level possible... Hold it LEVEL against the wall at the HIGHEST mark. Draw a horizontal, level line along your wall at that height. This is your LEVEL LINE which is 54” from the highest point in your kitchen.

- 8) In, Under and Over cabinet lighting: If you are installing lights in, under or over your cabinets... NOW is the time to make sure your wires are in the right place.
- Purchase your lights BEFORE you install you cabinets!!! THEY will determine if the wire needs to come out of the wall on the LEFT, RIGHT or MIDDLE of the cabinet.
 - Under Cab lights: If you are using framed cabinets your wires should come through the back wall of your cabinets underneath. That would be about 55" off the finish floor.
 - Under Cab lights: If you are using Frameless cabinets you wires should come through underneath you cabinets. That would be about 53.5" off the floor.
 - In-Cabinet lighting: Usually it's best to run your wires, plugs etc ON TOP of your cabinets. That means if you are hanging 30" tall wall cabinets... you wires should come through at about 85" off the floor. I usually install a plug box up top and plug in there. You will drill through the tops of your cabinets to run wires.
 - Over-top Cabinet lighting: Same as step D.

9) Ledger Boards: We will be setting our wall cabinets on ledger boards. This makes the hanging process 100% easier and more accurate!!!! (Don't worry about the screw holes... They are easily fixed and very small). Cut 1x4's in lengths long enough to run under each cabinet run. Let's say you have (3) wall cabinets 30" wide on a wall. You would cut a ledger board "about" 90" +/- long and screw it to the wall so that the "top" of the 1x4 is meets our "Level Line" from step #5. (Notice: Because we originally marked our studs at 55" off the floor "step4"... our marks show up just above our ledger boards making screwing very easy. Now... either screw a screw into EVERY stud OR mark every stud with a pencil onto your ledger board. That way they will be visible once our cabinets are set onto the ledger! WIRES: your wires (if using framed cabinets) will be just above your ledger board. (If frameless) you will need to drill the ledger board to allow the wires to come through. ANY size hole is fine 1/2, 3/4" etc. etc.

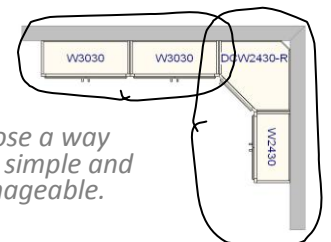
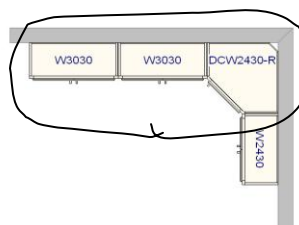
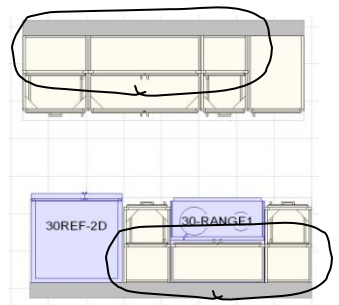
10) Screwing cabinet runs together: NEVER attempt to hang wall or base cabinets one by one! Always screw cabinet runs together prior to hanging. (As many as are easily manageable). Why? Because walls are NEVER plumb and corners are RARELY 90 degrees. The ONLY thing that matters is that our cabinets are installed perfectly plumb and level NO MATTER WHAT your walls are doing.

NOTE: A "cabinet run" is two or more cabinets... on any single wall... installed side by side... which will be which will be screwed together through the styles.

Corner cabinets: Corner cabinets should always be screwed together to at least one cabinet on either side as well. Actually... this is the MOST IMPORTANT to screw together.

A. Starting from any corner cabinet... decide which cabinets will be screwed together prior to hanging.

B. Place those cabinets on their BACKS... side by side. With the doors removed... clamp the front styles (frames) together. Make



Choose a way that is simple and manageable.

sure the styles are aligned as best as possible. PRE-DRILL (using a #10 countersink bit) *“also available at “tools needed”*. Pre-drill about ¼” from the holes where the HINGES were screwed into the cabinet frame. That way our new screw will be hidden once the hinges go back on. Once you have pre-drilled your first hole, screw the style together using a 2 ½” long #10 cabinet screw. *“Also available at “Tools Needed”*. Now pre-drill and screw the next screw. YOU MUST PRE-DRILL EVERY HOLE!!!! 2-3 screws per style is fine (tall cabinets usually get 4-5). *NOTE: If using Frameless cabinets... you will use much shorter screws!*

C. Carefully set your cabinet run upright. Now screw the “backsides” together with one or two cabinet screws. I usually do this on the TOP of the cabinets inside the recess (framed cabinets). If you are installing frameless cabinets... you may need to screw them together “inside” the cabinets.

11) Drilling for electric wires A: If you are installing “framed cabinets” you will need to drill a ½” hole through the back-side of your cabinets underneath to allow the wires to come through. This is much easier to measure now that your cabinet sections are screwed together. *(I usually turn the cabinets upside down to do this)*

Drilling for electric wires B: If you are installing “frameless cabinets” you will NOT need to drill. The wires will simply pass through the wall underneath the cabinet.

12) Hanging Cabinets: Start with any of the “Corner cabinets” and set them on the ledger boards in the corner. While one man holds them upright “resting the cabinet(s) on the ledger” screw (1) screw on the TOP of the cabinet into the wall/stud. This will hold that “run” of cabinets temporarily.

Continue for each cabinet and/or cabinet run. Set each one on the ledger... slide together... clamp and screw. Note: You may need some shims behind the cabinets to fill any gaps created by uneven walls! NEVER try to “pull” the cabinet to the wall to fill the gap!!! Remember: The WALL is the problem... not your cabinet. Fill any voids with shims... THEN screw tight!

13) Finish screwing: Once ALL your wall cabinets and fillers are in place, install the remaining screws both top and bottom. As far as the “bottom” screws are concerned... BE SURE to Pre-drill them first. (Just use the tip of the pre-drill for this). This will make for a VERY CLEAN hole/screw which will be visible.

*** Refrigerator Cabinets: If the cabinet above your fridge is 24” deep... install this cabinet separately! Get the others in place, and THEN setting a long level across the tops and overhanging our new cabinet location... measure down however high the fridge cabinet is. (12” or 15’ etc). Level this line and screw in a short ledge board just as before. THEN lift and set this cabinet on the ledger. Align the tops perfectly and screw through the top into the wall just as before. NOW... Carefully screw through the side of the fridge cabinet into the next cabinet frame (or side if frameless)

That’s it:

Thank you... and Happing Installing!

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