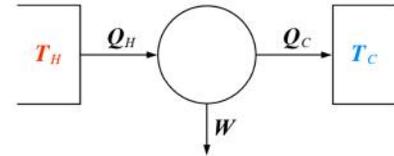


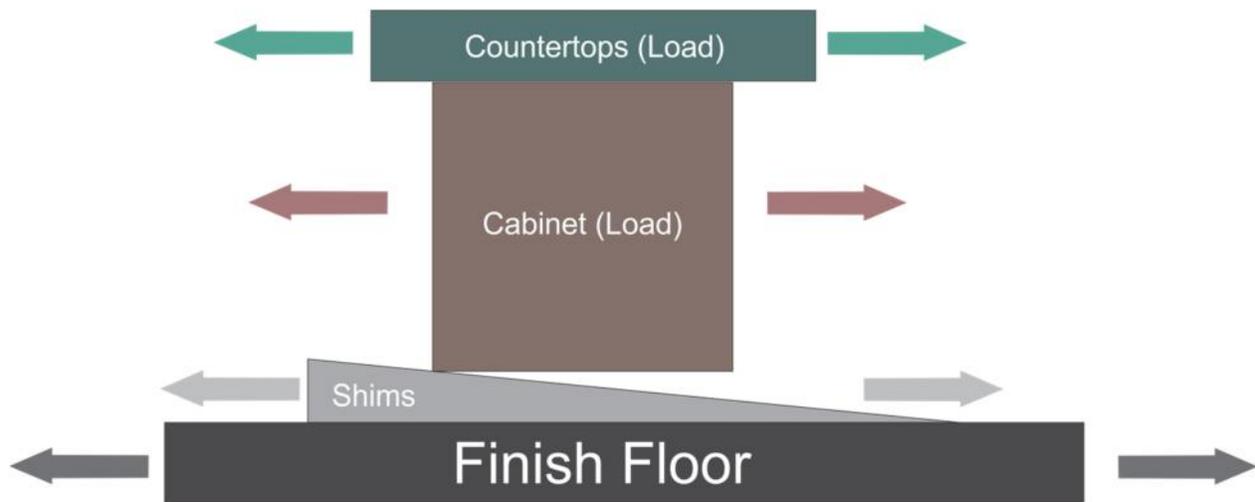
Wood Movement

Understanding & Working With Wood Movement

It's a natural fact that wood moves. You can nail it, glue it and reinforce it but you will never stop the wood in your projects from shrinking and swelling with seasonal changes in humidity. So the secret to dealing with wood movement is to work with it, not against it.: *American Furniture Design Co*



Thermal Expansion & Wood Movement: Whether you are building cabinets or simply installing them “Thermal Expansion & Wood Movement” is something you need to be aware of. Fact: Every building material expands and contracts including concrete, tile, metal, wood, or composite. It's not really important to know “why” this happens rather you need to know how to overcome the adverse effects.



The Problem: As these materials “breathe”, they do so at different times, temperatures and even directions. Therefore, any material not properly fastened into place will be moved out of place (especially materials carrying a load... like shims).

The Results can be catastrophic:

When a foundation fails it usually happens “all of a sudden”. Sadly there is no fix at that point either.

Cracks can show up “seemingly overnight” where your countertops meet the backsplash, or cabinets meet the walls, or where the crown touches the ceiling.

Granite is very heavy but it is also very brittle! We once lost a 1500 lb slab of granite because someone left a pencil on the table. As we were cutting... the granite simply broke in half!

Drawers and doors can sag and become missaligned if the foundation fails; no longer opening and closing properly.

Heres how to avoid long term problems:

- Glue all miter joints on your molding (we recommend 2P-10)
- Stain all raw edges for those same miter joints. (see our How To Video Series for details)
- Caulk along the top of your crown where it meets the cabinet. Otheriwse you will notice light shining through little cracks sooner or later when those materials separate. (use a caulk that somewhat matches your cabinets)
- Screw the front stiles together firmly on your cabinets. (see our How To Video Series for details)
- Use a leveling system that fastens securely to the “side walls” of cabinets. Granite more than any other material MUST be properly and perminently supported by all four rails of every single cabinet. (we recommend the EZ-Level system)
- Use colored caulk instead of grout at the point where your countertop meets the backsplash (most tile and or granite shops have these)

Master craftsmen have have been implementing these stratagies for centries now, but you too can follow these simple tips to ensure a lifetime of beauty and functionality for your kitchen.

Most likely you will need a few “cabinet specific” tools.

If you find our videos and tutorials to be helpful in any way, please consider purchasing some of those tools from us. This is how we get paid and we have priced them as competitively as possible. Although we cannot compete with larger online retailers and big box stores we have invested months developing “free” videos and are always available for you by way of fax, email or phone. Our goal is to bless you with 20 plus years of knowledge (and mistakes) and by doing so we hope that spending a couple of extra dollars will be well worth it to all of our wonderful customers.

If your budget is tight and you choose to purchase from other sources we still encourage you to enjoy all that we have to offer. The videos and tutorials are free for everyone no matter what. Enjoy them all... and if you get stuck anywhere in the process just give us a call or email.

Thank you and God Bless you.

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