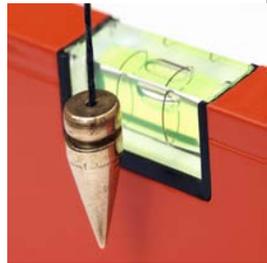
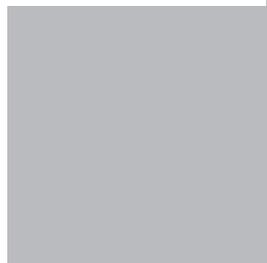
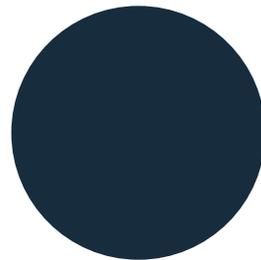


IMPROVEMENT CENTER



Kitchen Cabinet Installation Guide

Kitchen Cabinet Installation Guide

Kitchen cabinet installation is an advanced DIY project, but you can save a bundle on labor by following this two-step guide.

Materials You'll Need

- Drill, including Phillips or square drivers
- Cabinet-mounting screws, either size #8 or #10, 2 1/2 inches long
- Level, 4 or 6 feet long, and a smaller, 1-foot level
- Tape measure
- Straight edge, an 8- or 10-foot 2x4 will do
- Shims
- Stud finder
- Wood furring, 1x3
- Scrap 2x4 to make a "T-brace" support
- Two to four C-clamps, 6 inches





1. Prep floor and walls

- With the straight 2x4 and level, find your floor's high point and make a level horizontal line on the wall.
- Measure up 34 1/2 inches and draw another line to mark the top of the base cabinets.
- Draw another horizontal line to mark the bottom of your wall cabinets, usually 54 inches from the floor line.
- With the 2x4, check the walls for uneven spots.
- Sand off high points in the plaster; mark the low points with pencil and be prepared to shim them when you hang the cabinets.
- Mark the studs with the stud finder.
- Temporarily screw a 1x3 furring strip so that its top lines up with the wall-cabinet line.

Cost

Wood shims cost \$3 to \$10; a level costs \$10 to \$25; tape measures cost \$5 to \$15; stud finders range from \$5 to \$25; furring costs \$2 to \$5.



2. Prep and hang cabinets

- Remove all doors and shelves from the cabinets.
- Starting with the corner cabinet, transfer the measurements for your studs to the inside of your cabinet.
- Drill pilot holes in the back of the cabinet, 3/4 inch from the top and bottom at each stud location.
- Your cabinets are attached to one another by screwing the face frames together. Often you can place the screws so that the hinges cover them. Clamp the cabinets together, getting them perfectly lined up, then drill pilot holes and screw the cabinets together.
- If you have a helper or two, you can join the cabinets first, then lift the whole section into place on the wall. If you are working alone, you may have to mount the corner cabinet first, then connect the adjoining cabinets as you mount them on the wall.
- To mount the cabinets to the wall, lift the unit into place atop the furring strip and support from underneath with the T-brace.
- When you are sure everything is level and plumb, screw it to the studs.



Cordless drill sets cost \$50 to \$500;
C-clamps cost \$2 to \$7 each.

Base cabinets are installed much the same way; just remember to shim the floor and wall to keep everything plumb and level.