
Companion Guide for Voluntary Training Cabinets

Standard References

- ANSI/KCMA A161.1 - This standard by the American National Standards Institute and Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association provides performance and construction standards for kitchen and vanity cabinets
- ANSI/NKBA A40 - This standard by the National Kitchen & Bath Association outlines guidelines for kitchen and bathroom design, including cabinet installation
- AWI (Architectural Woodwork Institute) Standards
- NKBA Kitchen and Bathroom Planning Guidelines with Access Standards
- Cabinetmaking: A Professional Approach - By William D. Umstattd



Suggested, Generally Accepted Installation Best Practices for Installing Cabinets

1. Preparation:

1.1 Inspect Cabinets:

- Ensure all cabinets are free from damage and defects.

1.2 Prepare Installation Area:

- Verify that the site is clean, dry, and free from obstructions.

1.3 Check Walls and Floors:

- Ensure walls are plumb and floors are level. Correct any irregularities.

1.4 Gather Tools and Materials:

- Ensure all necessary tools and materials are available and in good condition.
-

2. Layout and Planning:

2.1 Confirm Layout:

- Verify the layout matches the design plans and all measurements are accurate.

2.2 Mark Layout Lines:

- Using a level, mark layout lines on the walls and floors for base and wall cabinets.
-

3. Installation Process:

3.1 Install Upper Cabinets First:

- Start with the upper cabinets to avoid working over lower cabinets.

3.2 Leveling:

- Use a level to ensure each cabinet is perfectly level and plumb.

3.3 Secure Cabinets:

- Attach the cabinets to wall studs using appropriate fasteners, ensuring each cabinet is rigidly attached.

3.4 Connect Cabinets:

- Use clamps to hold the adjacent cabinets together and secure them with screws through the sides.



Suggested, Generally Accepted Installation Best Practices for Installing Cabinets (cont.)

4. Adjustments:

4.1 Align Faces:

- Align the cabinet faces to ensure consistent spacing between doors and drawers.

4.2 Shim as Needed:

- Use shims to fill the gaps and ensure cabinets are level and plumb.

4.3 Secure Shims:

- Trim the excess shims and secure them for stability.
-

5. Final Steps:

5.1 Install Hardware:

- Install the handles, knobs, and hinges, ensuring proper alignment and functionality.

5.2 Prepare for Countertops:

- Ensure the base cabinets are level and secure for countertop installation.

5.3 Install Trim and Molding:

- Install the trim and molding as specified in the design for a clean, finished look.
-

6. Quality Control:

6.1 Final Inspection:

- Conduct a thorough inspection to ensure all cabinets are secure, level, and free of defects.

6.2 Adjust:

- Address any necessary adjustments to the doors, drawers, and hardware.

6.3 Cleanup:

- Remove all debris and clean the installation area.

