

Installation Information.

To ensure a successful installation, please read these easy-to-follow instructions before beginning your installation project. Follow drawings exactly as provided by the designer, including floor plans and elevations..

1. Preparation

Remove all doors, drawers and shelves from cabinets to lessen weight and enable you to clamp vertical frame members (stiles) together for installation. Check for uneven floors and walls. Some floors and walls have uneven spots that will affect the installation. Locate these uneven areas and shim or scribe cabinets in order to make the installation plumb, true and square.

___ Check for unevenness in floors.

Using a straight length of 2x4 and a carpenter's level, check the floor for "high" spots. Check all around the room within 22" of the walls where base cabinets will be installed. Once the highest point on the floor is located, strike a level line on the wall all around the room from this point of the floor, using your level and chalk line (see illustration). We will call this the "Base Level Line."

___ Check for unevenness in walls.

Mark the outlines of all wall cabinets on the wall to check actual cabinet dimensions against your layout. Using a straight 2x4, check the walls for uneven spots. Wall unevenness can cause

cabinets to be misaligned, resulting in "racking" or misalignment of the doors and drawer fronts. Where these uneven spots interfere, high spots can be removed by scraping or sanding off excess plaster. Low spots can be shimmed with thin pieces of wood or shingles.

___ Finding studs.

Tap on wall to locate a "solid" sound. This generally will tell you where the wall framing members are located. You can verify this location by driving a small finishing nail into the wall. Make sure this is an area that will be covered by the wall cabinets. Mark location of all studs on wall surface. Check for receptacle outlets. Studs will be located near outlets. For most homes, studs should measure 16" on center.

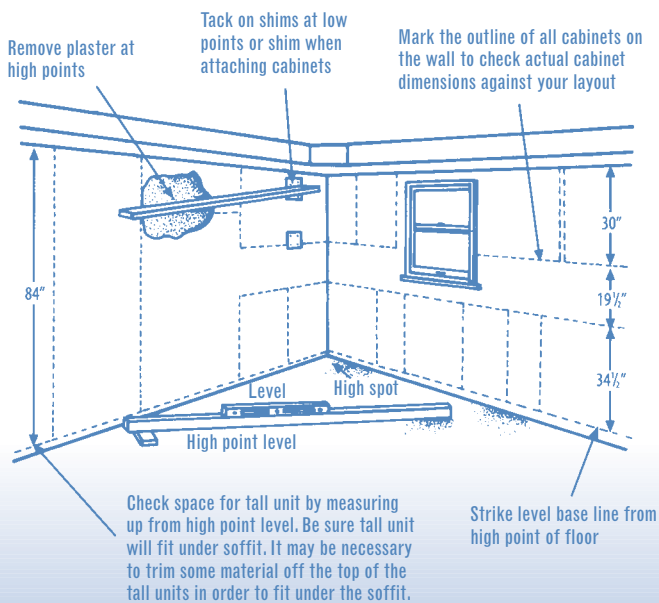
2. Soffits

If soffits are to be built, they should be constructed and installed before installing the cabinets. Soffits in a room with 8' ceilings are normally 12" high and 14" deep. The bottom of the soffit should be a minimum of 84" from the floor in order to allow the use of tall cabinets. Make sure there is at least an 84" clearance between the highest point in your floor and any existing soffit. If there is not, it may be necessary to start from a point in the floor that will accept this height or cut your tall cabinet down. Consideration should also be given for cabinets greater in depth than 12". Tall cabinets or increased-depth cabinets will require a soffit depth greater than 14".

NOTE: When cutting down tall cabinets from bottom, the toekick will not align with cabinets on either side. In some cases, 1/2" can be cut from top. Full overlay styles cannot be trimmed at top of frame.

___ Installation with an existing soffit.

If the wall cabinets are to be against a ceiling soffit, the soffit should be examined to determine if it is level. This can be done with a straightedge and level (much the same as finding the high spot on the floor). This time, you are looking for the lowest spot (closest to the floor). Corner cabinets should be shimmed down to this "lowest" height (closest to the floor).



___ Installing wall cabinets without a soffit.

Measure up from the base-level-reference line 54". Place a mark on the wall and, with a level and straightedge, continue around the room, drawing a line parallel to the base-level line (previously found by locating the high spot on the floor). This 54" line will be the bottom line for 30" standard wall cabinets.

As an option, using a 1x2 piece of furring, nail this piece on the 54" bottom line to help secure the wall cabinets until they are securely fastened to the wall using the screws supplied in each cabinet. After you remove the temporary 1x2 brace, repair the small holes with patching plaster.

___ Install wall cabinets first.

NOTE: It is usually desirable to install wall cabinets first. If you are unable to use the 1x2 brace, then use the 54" line as a visual reference point to raise the cabinets to, and use a floor "T" brace made from scrap lumber.

___ Start in a corner.

Once the support brace is in place, or the cabinet is otherwise supported (also support bottom) through the hanging rail, measure from the corner to all stud marks and drill the cabinet from the outside. Now drill 7/32" holes through the inside of the cabinet 3/4" down from the inside top of the cabinet at each stud location. Hole locations can also be marked on the back of cabinets, and holes drilled before cabinets are raised into place.

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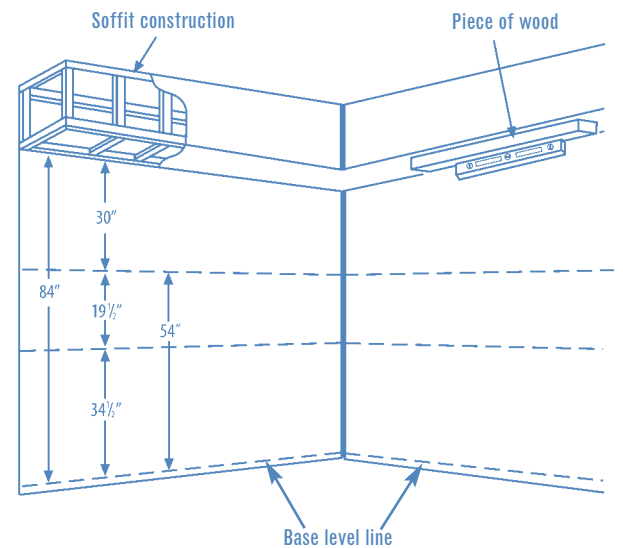
When installing a full overlay cabinet, a filler or starter strip (ST8) is recommended next to the wall or soffit. This will allow doors and drawers to open fully without hitting molding around doors and out-of-square walls.

NOTE: If you are installing a wall blind corner cabinet (WBC), make sure the cabinet is pulled out from the corner the appropriate distance as called for in your kitchen plan.

CAUTION: When measuring the wall space, be sure to consider the cabinets' front frames. The front frame of the cabinet overhangs the "box" by 3/16" on each end. Therefore, any measurements on the wall must coincide with the front frame measurements of each cabinet.

IMPORTANT: If decorative handles are to be used, it may be necessary to add a filler to the wall blind corner cabinet on the adjacent cabinet and "pull" the WBC cabinet further out of the corner. This will provide 90° opening capacity for the adjacent cabinet doors.

If you're installing a wall cabinet, drill pilot holes 3/4" down from the inside top of the cabinets, at stud locations. Raise the cabinet in place up to the line on the wall. Next, drill pilot holes into the wall (through the previously made holes on the inside of the cabinet). Using the screws furnished with the cabinets



and a Phillips screw gun, fasten the cabinet to the wall. Do not thoroughly tighten the cabinet to the wall until the next cabinet in line is fastened to the first one and proper shimming has been accomplished. When several cabinets in the line have been fastened together and checks for levelness are complete, the screws holding the cabinets to the wall may be thoroughly tightened. Take the next wall cabinet and repeat the installation previously outlined. Once the two cabinets are mounted to the wall, use your C-clamps, clamping the stiles tightly together, being careful to line up the bottom horizontal edges. Now drill a pilot hole through the stile of the first cabinet into the stile of the second cabinet. Use the screws supplied in the inside of each cabinet. A little wax on the screws will help you to seat them easily. Draw the two stiles or end panels tightly together, then remove the C-clamps. Continue installing the wall cabinets next to each other in a similar manner.

When installing wall cabinets, it is important to secure all cabinets together. For any cabinet that does not have additional cabinets on both sides, it is necessary to secure the open end of that cabinet to the ceiling or soffit studs with two (2) lag bolts (not supplied) through the top panel and front frame on the side that is open. On any wall cabinet that is hung on the wall where both ends are open, it is **extremely important** to secure this cabinet to the ceiling or soffit studs with four (4) lag bolts (not supplied) through the front frame and top panel on both sides.

If there is no soffit or ceiling above the cabinets, a support or decorative leg must be installed through the bottom of the cabinet to the countertop on all open ends to support the open ends. If this is secured to studs properly at top and bottom, cabinet will be completely supported. **Failure to follow securing instructions outlined in this paragraph could result in cabinets falling off the wall.**

___ Fillers or cabinets with extended stiles.

If it is necessary to use a filler, it is preferred to place the filler or fillers at the ends of the cabinet runs or next to the blind corner cabinets rather than between cabinets in the middle of the run. Fillers or extended stiles should be cut to fit the space required.

Valances must be cut to fit the space left between the cabinets. If you have a scalloped valance, find the center, mark one-half of the space required between the cabinets and cut from both ends to maintain the same measurement on each side of the centerline. Attach valance by drilling and screwing through the stiles or end panels of the adjacent cabinets.

3. Base cabinets

First, put the base cabinets in place, starting with the corner cabinets. If a base blind corner cabinet is used, pull it out of the corner to the proper dimension as shown on your kitchen layout. Shim this cabinet up to the high-spot line previously located.

NOTE: Full-overlay-style blind corner cabinets with decorative hardware applied must be pulled out 3" from the corner to provide a 90° door opening. If no decorative hardware is to be applied, then you only need to pull a full-overlay-style cabinet 1-1/2" from the corner to provide a 90° door opening. In both situations, the cabinet adjacent to the blind corner must also have a 3" or 1-1/2" filler applied.

Base blind corner cabinets may be pulled as necessary. A 3" filler is included with each base blind corner which must be used as an extension of the adjacent cabinet to provide necessary door and drawer clearance.

If using a base lazy Susan (LS) cabinet, apply a 1x2 strip to the wall at the proper height to support the countertop. Apply to both walls at right angles. These strips should be screwed to the studs and will provide support for the countertop once it is installed into the corner. It is usually better to fasten at least one cabinet in both directions to the LS and be sure they are shimmed properly, attaching the countertop brace described above.

Once the corner cabinet is positioned properly into the corner, use the stud marks on the wall to locate the position of the screws for mounting the base cabinets to the wall. Drill a hole at the stud location through the back rail of the base cabinet approximately 3/4" from the top and into the stud. Attach the cabinet to the wall with the screws provided inside each cabinet. Be sure to use the shims under the cabinet base to bring it up to the previously established level line.

Install the next cabinet in the same manner. Using your two (2) C-clamps, clamp the stiles tightly together, making sure the horizontal frame members (rails) form a level and straight line. Now, drill a pilot hole through the stile or end panel of the second cabinet. Use the screws supplied in the inside of each cabinet. A little wax on the screws will help you set them easily. Draw the two stiles or end panels tightly together. Remove the C-clamps.

After all base cabinets are securely fastened to the wall, reinstall doors and drawers and check each door and drawer for proper alignment. If a drawer front does not lie flush against the front frame, recheck each cabinet, ensuring they are both vertically and horizontally level.

4. Fine-tuning

___ Common service problems you can handle.

As a do-it-yourselfer, you have assumed the role of the contractor. In assuming this role, there are certain responsibilities that at times become necessary to "tune up" the job once installed. After all cabinets have been installed plumb and level, place doors and drawers back on cabinets. Install doors, making sure hinge adjustments are made so reveals between doors and drawers are equal. **Make sure these adjustments are made before installing pulls or knobs.**

Listed on the next page are several conditions and causes, followed by typical remedies for those conditions. Please refer to our "Protecting Your Investment/Care and Cleaning Guide" for other adjustment information.

CAUTION: Self-cleaning appliances generate intense heat during a cleaning cycle and the integrity of the appliance seal or gasket may be compromised with age, improper installation, etc. We recommend the removal of doors and/or drawers from cabinets adjacent to, or directly above, an appliance during a cleaning cycle to prevent possible finish or surface damage.

KraftMaid recommends installing a heat shield (order code: HSD.WH) on adjacent cabinets, especially for white and ivory door styles.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Countersink screws when installing decorative hardware to prevent scratching of face frame.