



# CABINETS 101

*West End Wood Products*



**Informational Booklet for Clients**

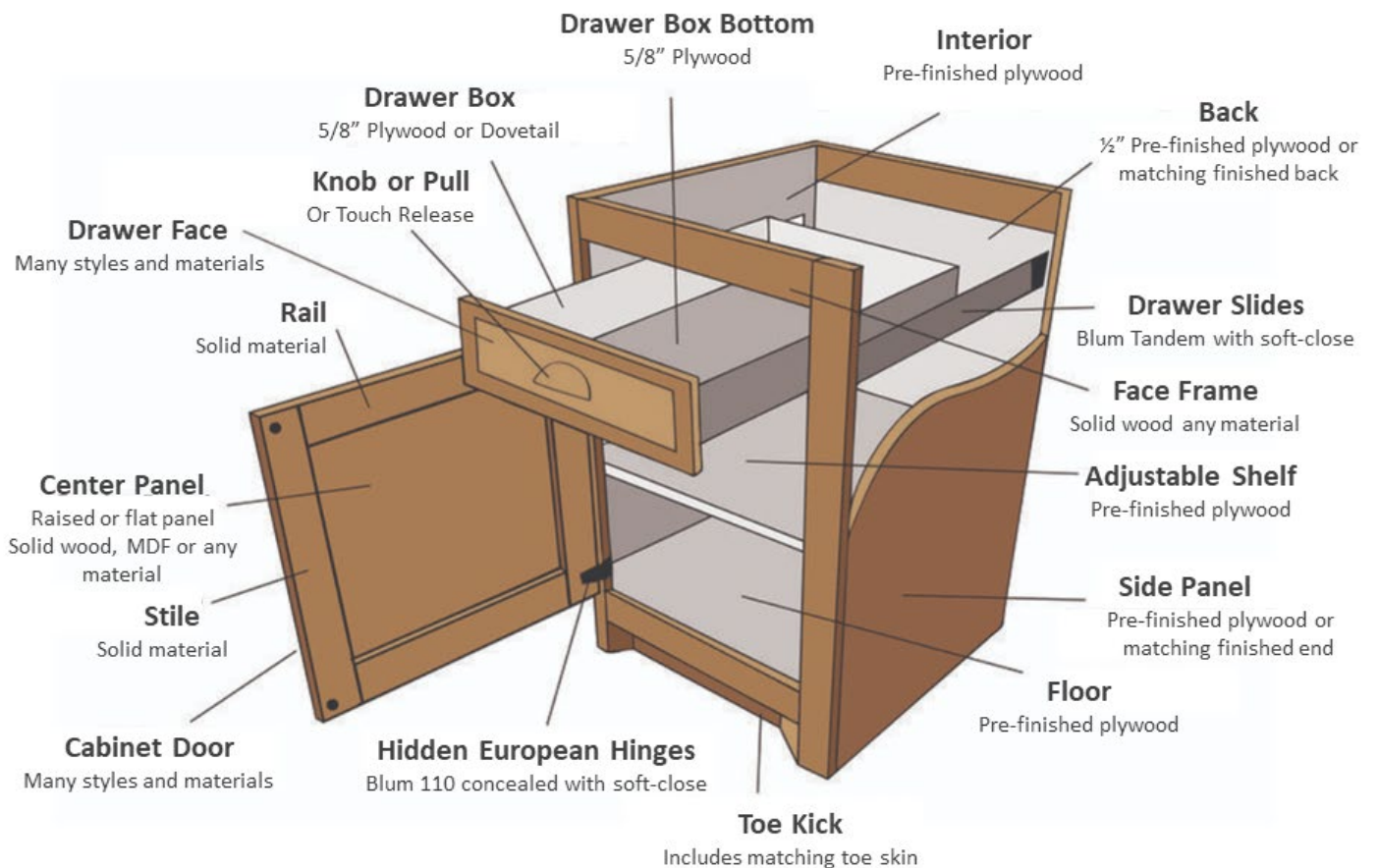
# CONSTRUCTION

All cabinets start with a **box** or carcasse and commonly contain **doors**, **drawers** and **shelving**.

## Box Construction

What sets cabinets apart are the construction methods and the quality of the materials and hardware used. West End Wood Products' custom cabinets are beautiful to look at and are built to stand up to many years of everyday use.

The image below details the parts of a standard cabinet and the type of materials commonly used.



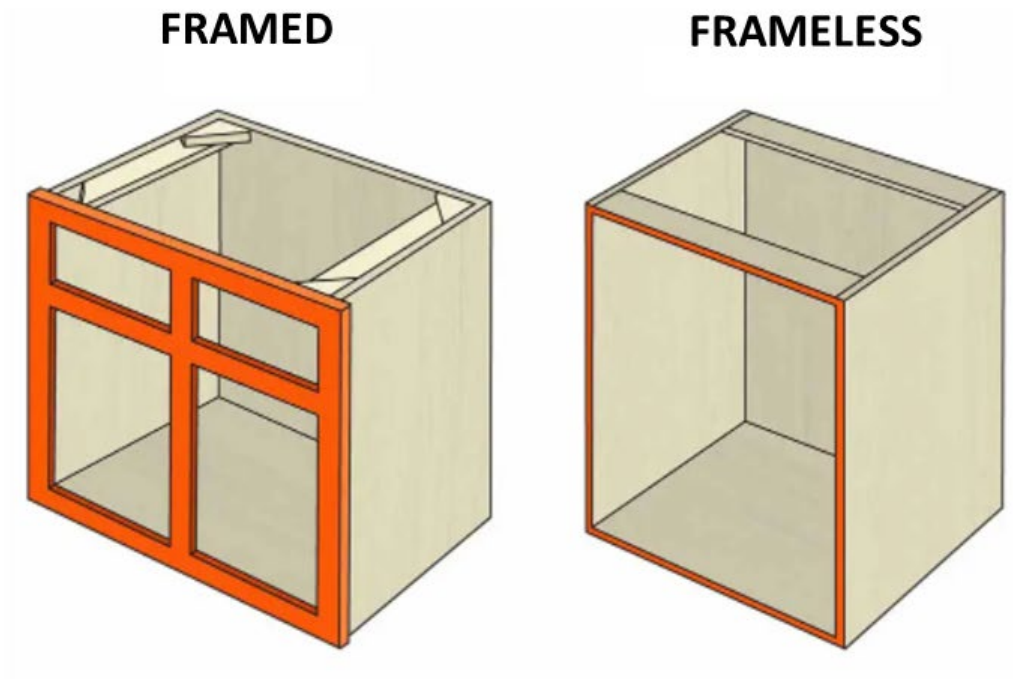
# CONSTRUCTION

Cabinet boxes come in two construction formats:

- Framed
- Frameless

## What's the difference?

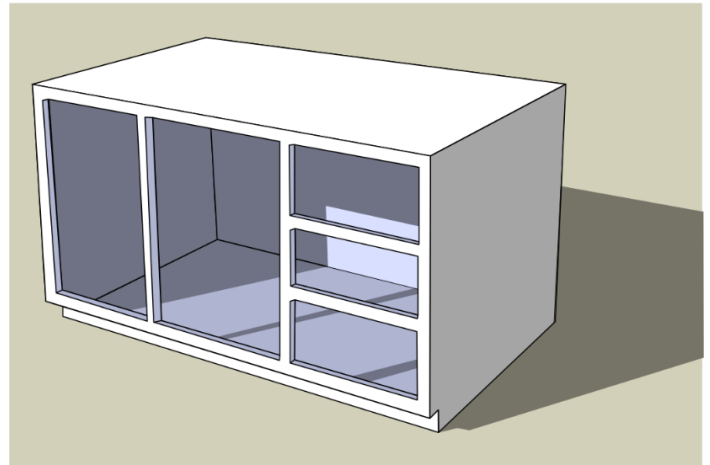
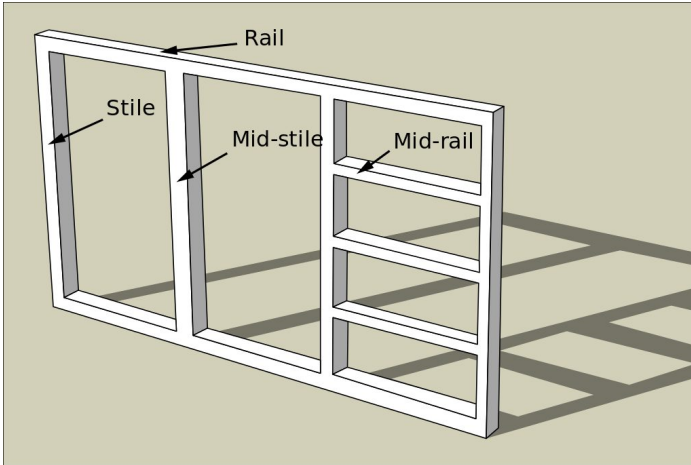
The difference has to do with the way the box is built. But is one better than the other? Each style has its own unique advantages and disadvantages and can effect the choice of materials, cabinet door types, and the overall style of the space.



# CONSTRUCTION

## Face Frame Cabinets

As the name suggests, face frame cabinets are cabinets with a face frame. The frame covers the front of the cabinet box and is comprised of rails and stiles, often resembling a picture frame. The point of this frame is to support the box and cabinet structure. It adds durability and strength, but in some cases, this can mean the cabinets themselves are made from thinner materials.



# CONSTRUCTION

Framed cabinets have three different cabinet door overlay styles to select from:

- **Full Overlay** (i.e., the doors cover the reveal of the frame's stiles and rails completely)
- **Partial Overlay** (i.e., the doors show a partial portion of the stiles and rails)
- **Flush Inset** (i.e., the doors are inset flush with the frame and reveal 100% of the stiles and rails)



Full



Standard (or Partial)



Inset

# CONSTRUCTION

## Pros of Face Frame Cabinets?

**Strong.** Framed cabinets are sturdier than frameless because the cabinet doors are secured to the frame.

**More versatile.** There are three style options with framed cabinets: full overlay, standard, and inset cabinet doors. This allows multiple ways to customize the look of the cabinets.

**Affordable.** Framed cabinets are usually less expensive than frameless cabinetry.

**Ease of installation.** Since face frame cabinets are more common in America, most installers know how to install.

## Cons of Face Frame Cabinets?

**Less space.** There is slightly less storage space on face frame cabinets when compared to frameless cabinets. For example, drawers have 1-½ inch less interior space because of the frame overhang.

**Less accessibility.** There is less access to the interior because of the center stile and frame overhang.

**Face frame is always visible.** Even with full overlay cabinet doors, the face frame will be visible.

# CONSTRUCTION

## Frame Cabinets

FULL OVERLAY



PARTIAL OVERLAY



FLUSH INSET (NO BEADING)



# CONSTRUCTION

## Frame Cabinets

FLUSH INSET – WITH BEADED DOOR



FLUSH INSET – WITH BEADED FRAME





# CONSTRUCTION

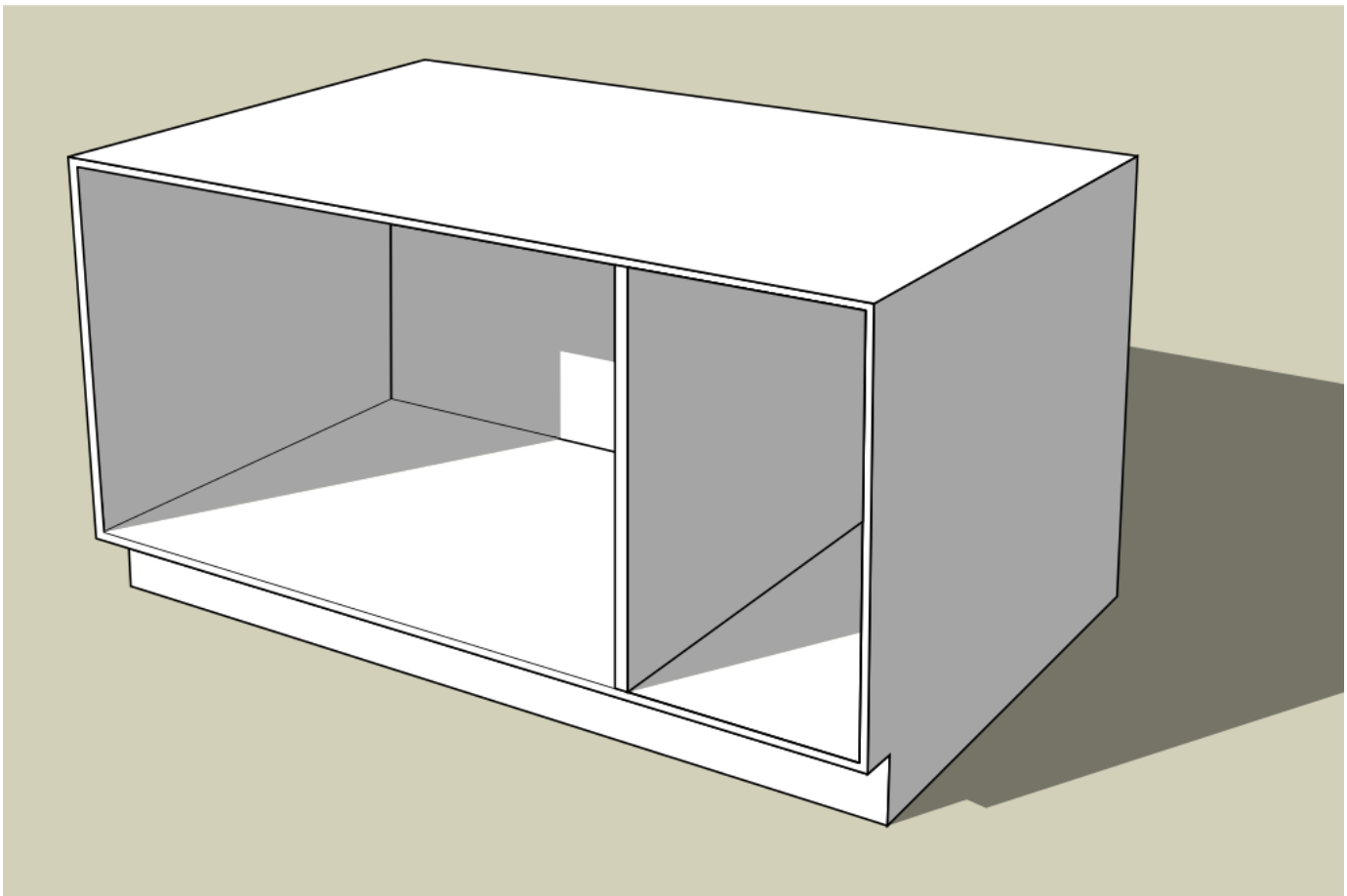
## Frameless Cabinets

Frameless cabinets originated in Europe and are often referred to as European style cabinets. They offer a minimal, simplistic, more contemporary look and are often paired with slab or shaker doors to help compliment the cleaner design.

The cabinet door attaches directly to the side wall of the cabinet with hinges installed on the box. In other words, when the cabinet doors are closed, there is no reveal around the door. And the cabinet ends are automatically flush.

Since the doors can only be mounted to the sides of the box, only full-overlay doors can be used. But frameless cabinets do offer more accessibility and extra storage space because there's no center stiles between two cabinet doors.

With no frame to offer extra support, frameless cabinets rely on thicker box materials for strength and stability. It needs thicker sides to support the weight of the items inside.



# CONSTRUCTION

## Pros of Frameless Cabinets?

**Bigger drawers.** There's no face frame overhang, which means wider and deeper drawer boxes with frameless cabinetry.

**More storage.** There are no center stiles coming down the middle of large cabinets, offering more storage space. Plus, roll out trays and other accessories can be the full width of the cabinet.

**Shelves are easily adjustable** since you don't have to work around the face frame.

**Sleek.** Frameless cabinetry provides a sleek and simple aesthetic that works with many design themes.

**More material options.** With face frame cabinets, you can really only use hardwood. But with frameless, you have a lot more options including veneer core plywood, particle board, and other composite materials.

## Cons of Frameless Cabinets?

**Fewer styles.** Because they're not as popular as face frame cabinets, there are usually less styles, sizes, and modifications available to choose from.

**More upfront material cost.** Because frameless cabinetry can't rely on a face frame for support and added strength, they usually need to be made out of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick material, which comes with a higher price tag.

**Difficult to install in older homes.** If you're installing frameless cabinets in older homes, you may run across uneven walls or floors. Because those walls aren't perfect and construction isn't square, your frameless cabinets won't fit properly and might be more difficult to install.

**Not suitable for wider cabinets.** Because there's no frame, there's less horizontal strength. In many cases this doesn't matter, but in a wider cabinet it's something to be aware of.

# CONSTRUCTION

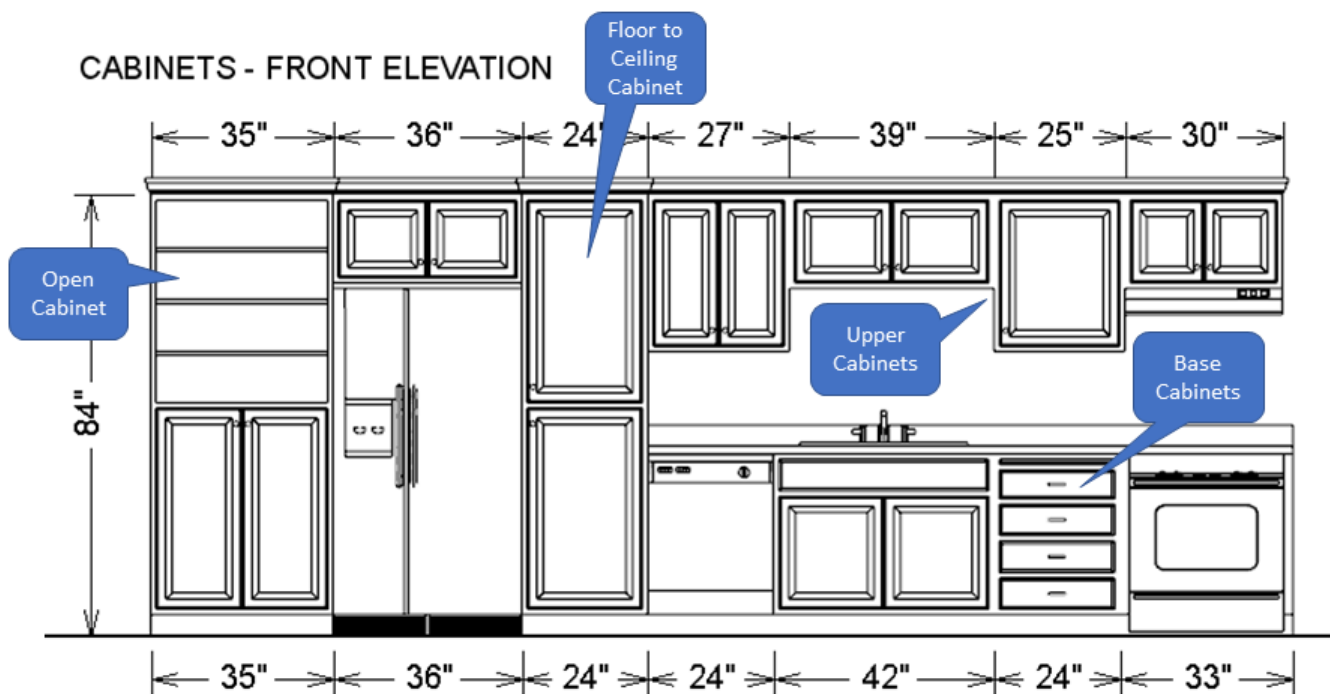
## Frameless Cabinets



# CABINET LAYOUT

The cabinet layout may be comprised of any combination of:

- **Base Cabinets** (sit on the floor)
- **Upper Cabinets** (mounted to the wall above base)
- **Floor to Ceiling Cabinets** (combination of base and upper in one cabinet)
- **Open Cabinets** (base, upper or floor to ceiling with shelving, but without doors)



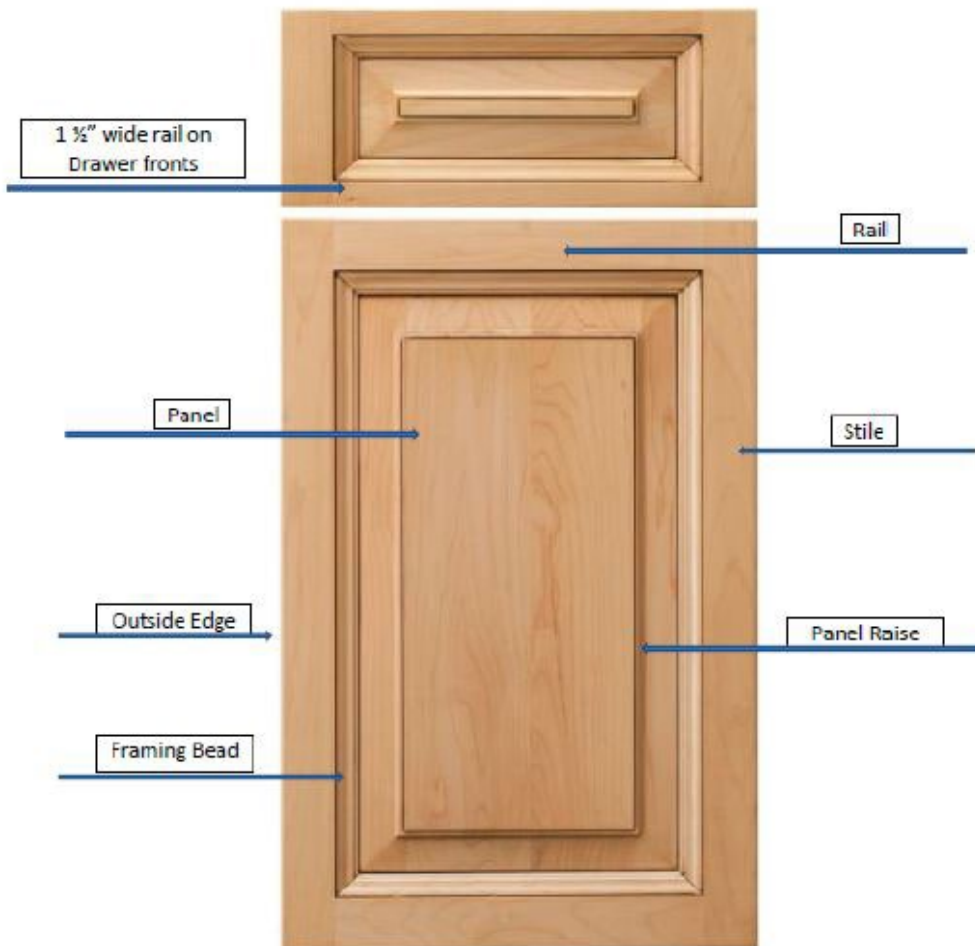
# DOORS

Doors come in many styles. For door style ideas, visit: <https://www.decore.com/products/doors-and-drawer-fronts>

## Anatomy of a Door and Drawer Front

The cabinet door consists of:

- **Panel** – The center section of a cabinet door. Panels come in raised and recessed varieties.
- **Rail** – The top and bottom pieces in the frame. Rails come in arched and square varieties.
- **Stile** – The left and right pieces in the frame.
- **Outside Edge** – The outside edge of the cabinet door. Measure corner to corner on the outside edges to determine the size of the door.
- **Inside Edge** – The inside edge of the cabinet frame. Framing beads are used to add decorative details to the cabinet door.



# DOORS

There are many variations to door designs. Some of the basic door styles are:

- Shaker
- Slab
- Raised Panel
- Beadboard
- Glass Front

## Shaker



## Slab



## Raised Panel



## Beadboard



# DOORS

**Glass Front**



**French Lite**



# MATERIALS

The variety of cabinet materials to choose from is vast. The types of material fall into five categories:

- Natural Hardwoods
- Wood Veneers
- Laminates
- Acrylics
- Melamine

## Natural Hardwoods

Solid wood comes in many different forms and is one of the most commonly used materials for cabinets. Hardwood is resistant to denting and scratching, but it does cost more than any other material because of its high durability and overall quality. It is a natural product and will have unique patterns and may be hard to control grain and color uniformity.

For hardwood door color ideas, visit: <https://www.decore.com/products/doors-and-drawer-fronts/revere-800-cabinet-doors>

Some commonly used hardwoods are:

### Alder - Select



### Cherry - Select





**Maple - Select**



**Vertical Grain Fir**



**Walnut- Select**



**White Oak – Riff Sawn**



# MATERIALS

## Wood Veneers

Veneer is cut from a log into sheets in varying thickness, down to as thin as 1/40" thick. Veneer is also environmentally friendly, with a recycled wood fiber composite core. Thanks to its sturdy core, Veneer doors are less susceptible to warping than solid wood doors and can provide a consistent color and grain pattern.

For wood veneer door color ideas, visit: <https://www.decore.com/products/doors-and-drawer-fronts/aries-93-cabinet-doors>

Some common veneers are:

### Plain Sliced Red Oak



### Plain Sliced European Beech



# MATERIALS

## Laminates

High Pressure Laminates (HPL) are decorative laminates applied to a composite core with high levels of pressure to seal and secure the bond between the core and the laminate material. Laminate doors and drawer fronts have a band around the edge to conceal and protect the composite core.

Typically the core is made of MDF or Particleboard. Laminate is available in a wide variety of colors, sheens, textures, and designs; including solids, wood grains, abstract designs, and textures.

For laminate door color ideas, visit:

<https://www.wilsonart.com/laminate/virtual-design-library/new-arrivals>

<https://www.westcoastlaminating.com/wilsonart-lujo>

<https://www.westcoastlaminating.com/cleaf>

<https://www.westcoastlaminating.com/luxe>



# MATERIALS

## Acrylics

Acrylic doors and drawer fronts are offered in mirror-like high gloss and luxurious, velvet matte finishes to achieve a high end look. A variety of solid colors, woodgrain, and detailed design acrylics are available with a Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF) core. A seamless appearance is achieved with matching edgebanding.

For acrylic door color ideas, visit:

<https://www.decore.com/products/doors-and-drawer-fronts/sl350-350-cabinet-doors>

<https://www.westcoastlaminating.com/luxe>



# MATERIALS

## Melamine

Melamine is a durable, coated paper-based product applied to a composite core and can also be referred to as Thermally Fused Laminate (TFL). Melamine Doors and Drawer Fronts have a band around the edge to conceal and protect the composite core. Typically, the core is made of MDF or Particleboard.

For melamine door color ideas, visit:

<https://www.decore.com/products/doors-and-drawer-fronts/sl-250-cabinet-doors>

<https://www.wilsonart.com/lujo-collection>

A couple examples of melamine are:

### Ash



### Apple



# FINISHING

The finish is a substance applied to the exterior (i.e., doors, drawer fronts, sides, legs, etc.) of the cabinets. It not only protects the cabinet surface, it creates an overall aesthetic. There are many types of finishes. Some of the most common are:

- **Painted Finish**
- **Conversion Varnish**
- **Stain**
- **Waterborne UV Finish**
- **Natural Finish** (i.e., Clear)
- **Finish Techniques** (e.g., Glaze, Bleaching, Distress, Antique)

## Painted (Opagues) Finish

**Paint** can hide imperfections in the wood and creates a uniform and seamless look across all cabinets. Paint comes in a wide range of colors and level of light reflection (i.e., matte, semi-gloss, satin, and enamel). Painted cabinets can have a varnish topcoat added to make the finish more durable.

**PROS:** Light clean look for matching colors throughout the home

**CONS:** Likely to chip, show dents, and can rub off in highly used areas



# FINISHING

## Conversion Varnish

**Varnish** is a topcoat put on the cabinets that forms a hard protective layer once it's dry. **Conversion varnish** is made of resin and an acid catalyst that dries stronger and more durable than polyurethane.

**PROS:** Resists age-related yellowing, heat, and corrosion, more durable than regular varnish

**CONS:** Requires particular conditions and application by a knowledgeable professional



# FINISHING

## Stain

Cabinet **stain** is made using natural pigments and dyes and can be *water-based* or *solvent-based*.

When applying color with a stain, it soaks deep into the cabinets to become part of the wood. Because of this, stain moves with the natural swelling and shrinking of the cabinets and won't crack or peel like paint or lacquer might.

**PROS:** Different areas in the wood soak up different amounts of stain leaving a crafted, individualized look

**CONS:** Fewer color options than painted cabinets





# FINISHING

## Waterborne UV Finish

The **waterborne** finish is scratch-resistant, low in volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and formaldehyde-hazard free. This finish is dispersed in water, dries quickly, and is then cured with UV light. The aesthetic is similar to that of varnished, stained, or painted cabinets.

**PROS:** Easy to clean, scratch resistant, and resists yellowing with age

**CONS:** Slightly more expensive.



# FINISHING

## Natural (Clear)

A **natural** wood finish does not use stains or dyes and does not alter the color of the wood. Typically, these finishes are *clear*, so the natural color is visible beneath the protective layer giving a raw look. Depending on the species of wood, the durability will vary.

**PROS:** Brings out the color variations within a piece of wood

**CONS:** Lack of uniformity and color choice



# FINISHING

## Technique - Glaze

**Transparent** or **semi-transparent glaze** is typically applied completely over painted or stained cabinets and then wiped off the lines, and details of the cabinets with just a thin layer left on the rest of the cabinets. A glaze finish on cabinets is a great way to highlight intricate, hand-carved designs throughout the cabinets.

Applying an *accent glaze* is also common for cabinets. Rather than applying the glaze to the whole cabinet, accent glaze is used to highlight specific areas you want to highlight. This preserves the true base color of the cabinets rather than having a slight tint from glaze if it's applied to the whole cabinet.

**PROS:** Adds visual depth and interest to stained cabinets; although slightly pigmented, the color is either transparent or semi-transparent.

**CONS:** A premium finish requiring heavy handwork, often more expensive than alternatives.



# FINISHING

## Technique - Bleaching

**Bleaching** is a technique that removes the color from wood without taking away its personality. This allows for a wide range of results from a subtly muted color to a brilliant white. Then the bleached cabinets can be stained to produce a uniform color, still displaying the natural grain.

**PROS:** Mutes dark wood color variations to create a uniform stain color

**CONS:** Sample testing recommended to select correct level of bleaching before applying to all cabinets



# FINISHING

## Technique - Distressing

**Distressed** cabinets are a type of painting technique to give new cabinets an aged appearance. The finish is created by making the paint coat seem worn or scratched using different techniques with the stain, paint, or glaze.

**PROS:** Color variations add character and a timeless, aged look

**CONS:** Likely to rub off and chip in highly used areas



# FINISHING

## Technique – Antique, Vintage or Heirloom

This finishing technique recreates the natural process of wear for an authentic, aged finish. First, selective sanding will expose the underlying wood to give an impression of the natural wear process. Then the corners and edges are softened and the surface is distressed. Finally, the glaze is applied. This process is very hand-detailed, which helps give the cabinets a beautiful, artistic look.

**PROS:** The random placement of the effects creates the unique look of a well-loved heirloom

**CONS:** Likely to rub off and chip in highly used areas



# ACCESSORIES

Cabinets may be accessorized to provide convenience and organization. There are many options. Some common accessories are shown below. For ideas of available accessories, visit <https://rev-a-shelf.com/>.

## Common Kitchen Accessories

In the kitchen, there are many ways to make the cabinet items more accessible or increase storage capability.



**Lazy Susan**



**Drawer System**



**Base Pull-Out**



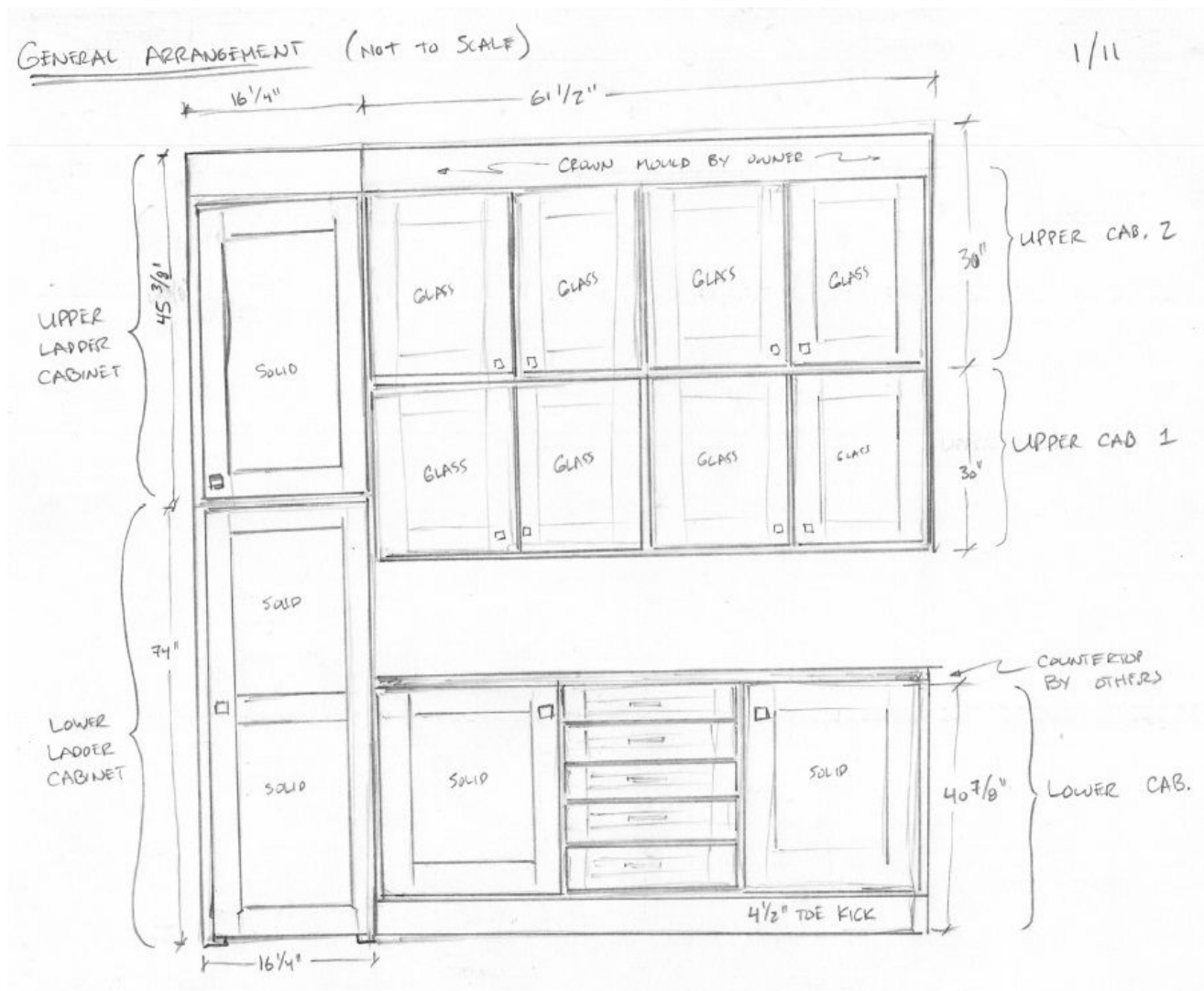
**Trash/Recycle Pull-Out**

# PLANS

Custom cabinets are built based on specific plans with detailed measurements. These plans may be drawn up by an *architect, designer, or client*. Plan drawings may have an **elevation view, plan view, and/or 3-D view**.

## Rough Sketch with Elevations

Before building even begins, the cabinet manufacturer needs to assess the project. At the very minimum, the cabinet maker needs a **rough sketch** of the plan including **elevations** for the cabinets and room, cabinet style, and material.



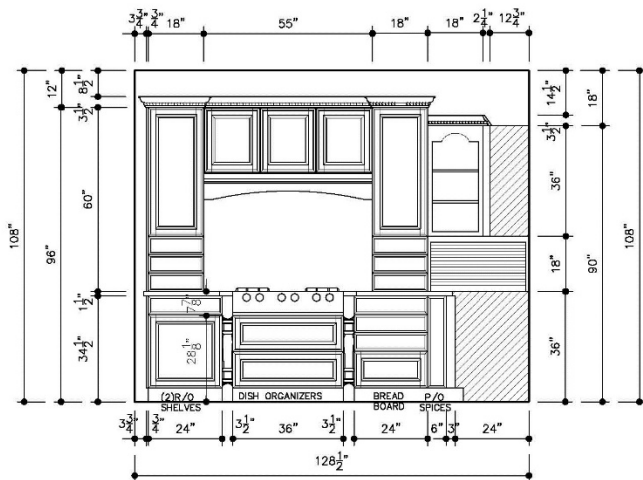


# PLANS

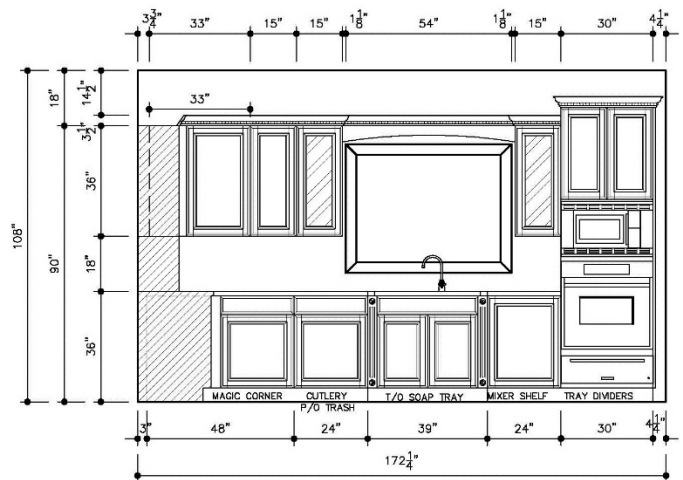
## Elevation View Drawing

An elevation view gives you the perspective of someone who is standing a few dozen yards away from the cabinets. It just gives you a full view of *one side* of the cabinets. *Elevation drawings provide cabinet length and height (elevation) measurements as well as placement in a room. They also provide wall height.*

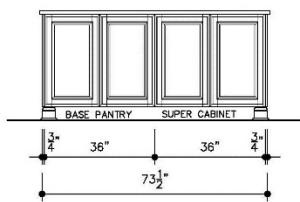
That means an elevation view drawing won't give you a full view of the cabinets. It just gives you a full view of *one side* of the cabinets. *Elevation drawings provide cabinet length and height (elevation) measurements as well as placement in a room. They also provide wall height.*



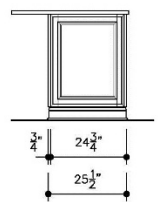
1 ELEVATION  
K2 SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"



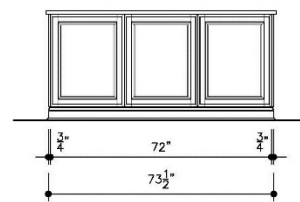
2 ELEVATION  
K2 SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"



3 ELEVATION  
K2 SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"



4 ELEVATION  
K2 SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"



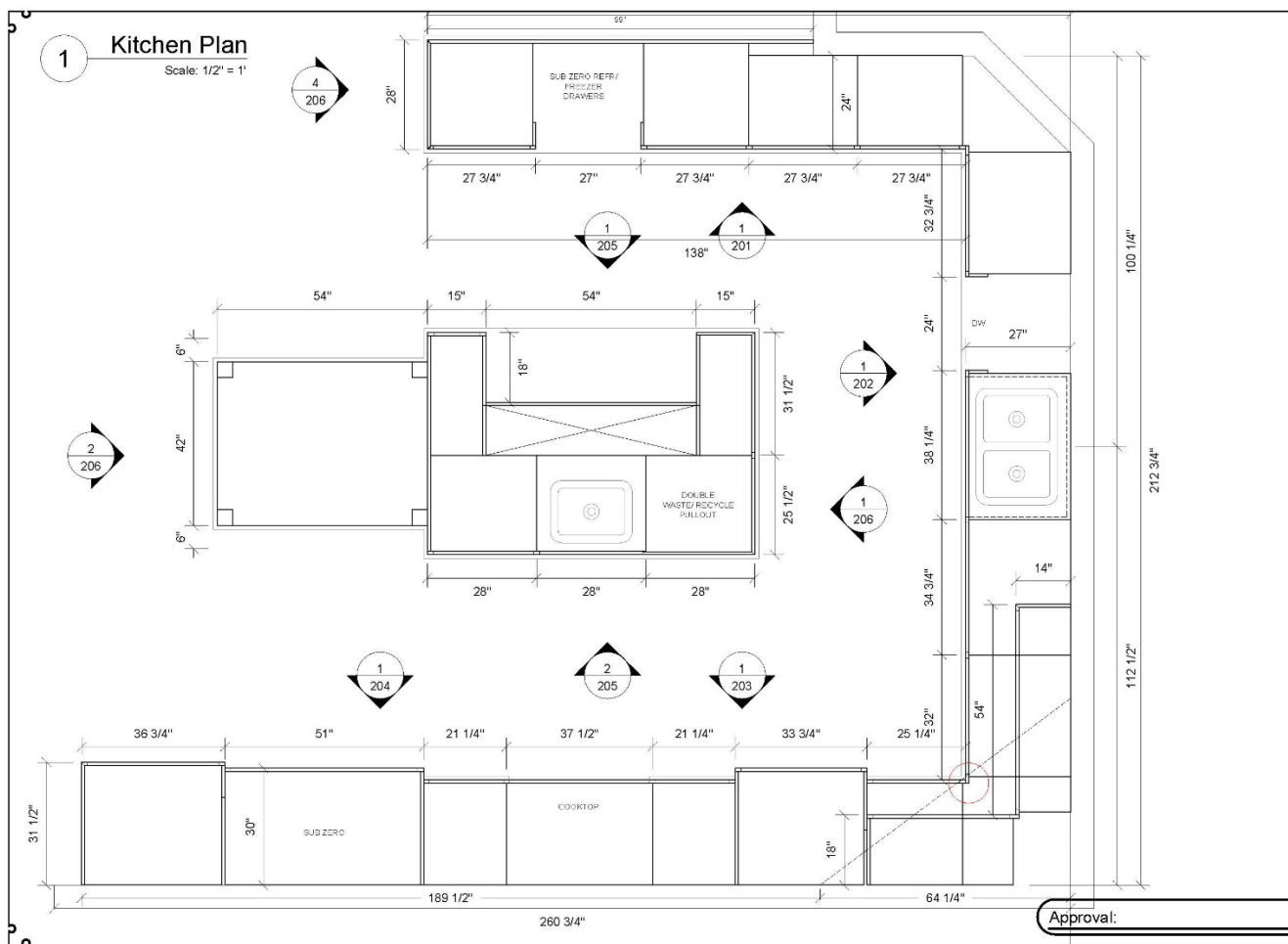
5 ELEVATION  
K2 SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

# PLANS

## Plan View Drawing

From the **plan view** perspective, you get a bird's eye view of the cabinets. That includes the interior walls and the layout of the rooms. *Plans provide cabinet length and depth measurements as well as placement in a room.*

Plan view drawings often include a lot of documentation to signify things like doorways, windows, fixtures, and more.



# PLANS

## 3-D View Drawing

Viewing in **3-D** (i.e., three dimensional) involves viewing the cabinets with a perception of depth. A 3D view may show the cabinets from any spatial position (e.g., in front of the cabinets, looking into the room from an entrance, etc.).

