

How to Measure a Kitchen for Cabinets

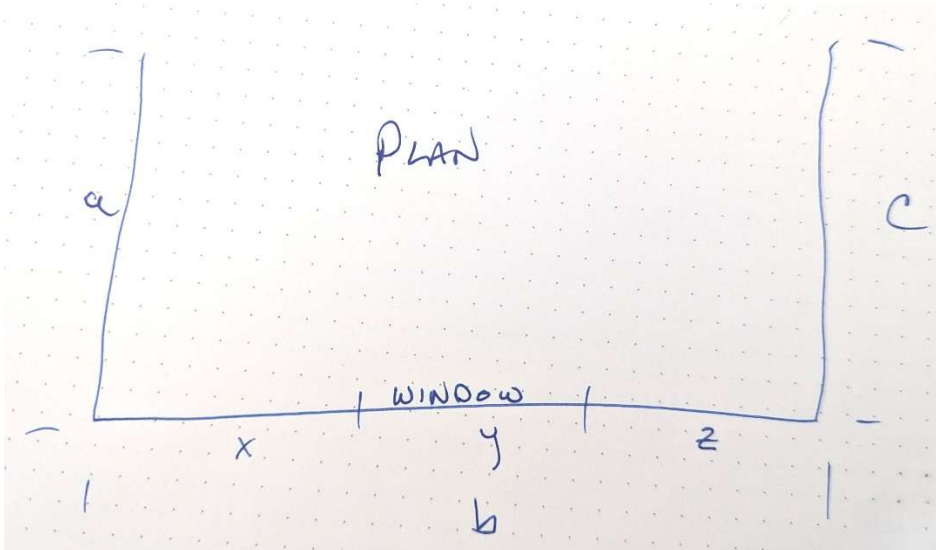
From Small Cabinet Shop

A kitchen cabinet layout requires $\frac{1}{4}$ " or finer measurements. A tape measure works well, but a laser excels at capturing measurements between walls, etc.



1. Plan View

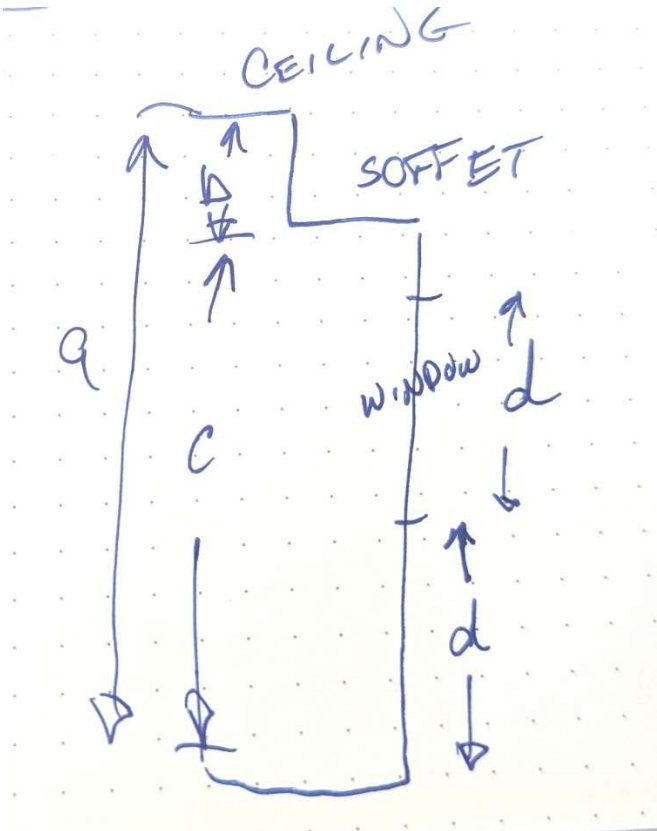
Make a rough sketch of the room perimeter to record your measurements.



- Measure each wall starting from one corner and go around the room.
- Total Wall Length: Measure the full length of each wall from corner to corner.
- Wall Segments: Break down each wall into segments, measuring from the corner to the edge of window/door trim, the width of the window/door with trim, and the distance between openings.
- Centerlines: Distance from the nearest wall/corner to the center of sinks, ranges, and rough dimensions for existing plumbing or gas lines.

2. Elevation View

Make another rough sketch



- Floor-to-Ceiling: Essential for determining if cabinets can reach the ceiling or if crown molding is needed.
- Floor-to-Sill: Measure from the floor to the bottom of window sills to ensure base cabinets and countertops (standard 36") will fit underneath.
- Soffits or Bulkheads: If your kitchen has these, measure the height from the floor to the bottom of the soffit and the soffit's depth from the wall.

3. Obstructions and Utilities

- Identify anything protruding from or recessed into the walls.
- Door and Window Trim: Measure from the outside edge of the molding/trim. Allow several inches of symmetrical clearance.
- Utilities: Mark the position of plumbing, vents, and gas lines.
- Architectural Features: Note locations of radiators, structural posts, or "bump-outs" in the wall.

4. Appliance Specifications

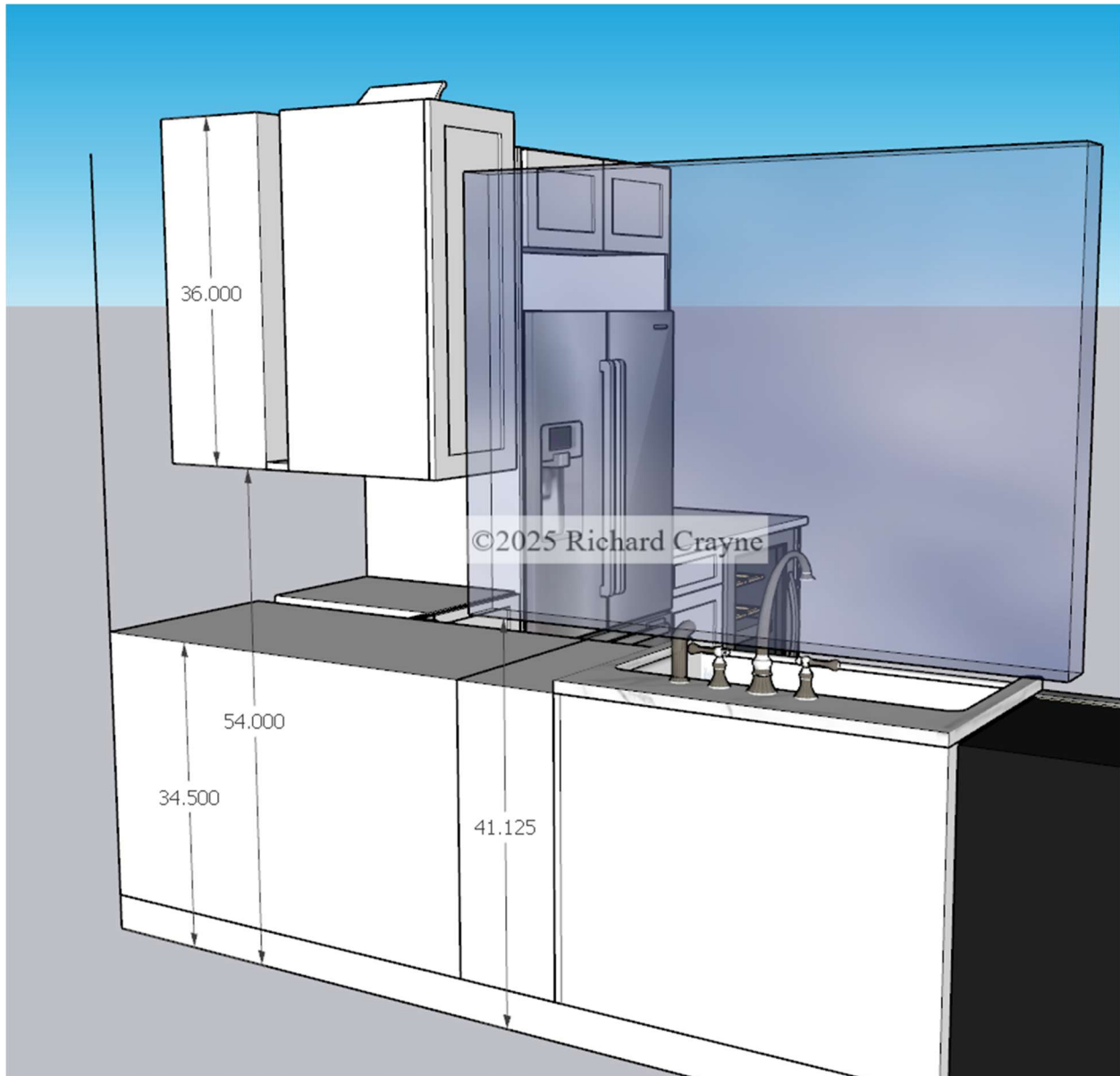
- Appliances: Collect Model #s and then READ the Installation Manuals for major appliances (refrigerator, stove, hood, dishwasher, microwave, etc). Local codes may apply (e.g. cooktop to vent).
- Clearance and Swing: Ensure appliance doors have enough room to open fully without hitting cabinets or obstructing aisleways.

“Standard” Dimensions

Dimensions	Standards
Base Cabinet Height	34.5" (36" with countertop)
Upper Cabinet Depth	12" – 13" (standard); up to 24" (above fridge)
Upper Cab Height	Usually 30, 36, 42. Toppers may go higher.
Countertop-to-Upper Gap	18" is standard for appliance clearance
Walkway Width	36" (minimum); 42" – 48" (ideal for multiple users)
Island Clearance	3.5' – 4' on all open sides
Countertop Overhang	Max 10.5" from cabinet. Add supports for larger overhangs. Confirm with your countertop supplier.

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Elevation



Please visit SmallCabShop.com for more info.