

# Honest Cabinets

## Cabinet Construction & Quality Guide

This guide explains the range of cabinet construction techniques used across the cabinet lines we offer. All cabinets we supply are professionally built residential cabinetry. We do not sell disposable or big-box cabinetry. Differences in pricing are driven by materials, construction methods, and customization level—not by cutting corners. Our role is to help contractors select the right construction level for the job, the budget, and the homeowner's expectations.

### Cabinet Construction: A Spectrum, Not a Pass/Fail Test

Cabinet construction is not simply cheap versus premium. It exists on a spectrum where different techniques prioritize cost efficiency, customization, durability, and aesthetic refinement. Every project sits somewhere different on that spectrum.

### Cabinet Box Construction

Entry to mid-level construction typically includes plywood or furniture-grade engineered panels, fully enclosed box construction, full-height backs or reinforced mounting rails, and mechanically fastened and glued joinery. This approach is structurally sound, installation-friendly, and appropriate for most residential kitchens and baths.

Mid to upper-level construction often includes thicker plywood panels, full-depth backs for superior wall attachment, reinforced joinery such as dado or dowel construction, and heavier box weight for increased rigidity. This provides improved tolerance control during installation, greater resistance to racking, and more flexibility for tall cabinets and specialty applications.

### Door, Drawer & Interior Materials

All cabinets we supply use hardwood face frames, solid wood or veneered center panels, and solid wood dovetail drawer boxes. Differences between cabinet lines typically relate to wood species options, center panel construction methods, material thickness, and finish depth. These choices influence cost, visual refinement, and long-term wear resistance.

### Finish Systems & Paint Quality

Standard professional finishes across all cabinet lines include factory-applied, multi-step spray processes using catalyzed finishes, conversion varnishes, and solvent-based enamel systems. These finishes are designed to handle normal residential moisture, daily wear, and UV exposure from natural light.

Higher-end finish systems may include additional sanding and coating steps, increased film thickness, tighter color and sheen control, and optional hand-wiped stains or glazing. These finishes provide a smoother appearance under close inspection, improved durability in high-use environments, and reduced visible wear over time.

### Drawer & Hardware Construction

All cabinets we supply include solid wood dovetail drawer boxes, soft-close drawer slides, and soft-close concealed hinges. These features are considered baseline standards for professional residential cabinetry, not upgrades.

Hardware variations between cabinet lines may include differences in load ratings, adjustability ranges, and duty cycle expectations. These variations are most relevant in large kitchens, high-traffic households, and rental or multi-use homes.

## **What Drives Cabinet Price Differences**

Cabinet pricing is influenced by material thickness, joinery methods, finish process depth, customization level, and modification allowances. A higher price does not necessarily mean stronger; it typically reflects increased options, tighter tolerances, or more refined finishes. Our goal is to help contractors pay for what matters on a given project and avoid unnecessary upgrades.

## **How We Help Contractors Use This**

Rather than asking contractors to select cabinetry from a catalog alone, we help match construction level to project type, align cabinet quality with homeowner expectations, protect budgets early in the quoting phase, and prevent over- or under-specifying cabinetry. This leads to more accurate bids, fewer change orders, smoother installations, and better customer confidence.

## **Bottom Line**

All cabinets we supply are built for professional installation, appropriate for long-term residential use, and backed by manufacturer warranties. Differences in construction exist to serve different projects—not to cut corners. We help contractors choose the right level every time.

Not sure what cabinet construction level fits your project? We'll help you match quality, budget, and expectations before you quote the job.