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Project
Guide

Getting Ready to Install Cabinets

Even if your kitchen design requires help from the pros, installation can be a do-it-yourself job, potentially saving lots of money. The difficult part is keeping everything perfectly level and perfectly aligned while connecting to a floor and walls that are probably neither. The trick is in taking your time to achieve a high level of precision when you install the cabinets. To get started, use this project guide to help you lay out the entire installation job before you begin putting any cabinets in place.

Steps

Steps 1-3 of 4

Step One



Use a stud finder to locate the studs in the wall.

Mark the center of the studs with a pencil. Then extend the lines up and down the wall with a 4-foot level, making sure you keep the lines plumb.

Step Two



Locate high spots in the floor.

Begin by placing a straight 2x4 on the floor against the wall and placing a 4-foot level on top of it. Shim the low end of the 2x4 until you get a level reading. Transfer the top of the level line to the wall and extend it around the room. The point at which the distance between the line and floor is smallest is the high spot. This is the point from which you will begin laying out the cabinets. Mark it with an X.

Step Three



Mark the top of the base cabinets on the wall.

Begin at the high point on the floor and measure up 34 1/2 inches, the standard height of a base cabinet before the counter is added. Extend a level line around the room at this height.

Skill Level

Medium

Time Required

Variable

Tools

4-foot level
Stud finder
Tape measure
Hammer
Line level
Flat pry bar
Chalk line

Materials

Cabinets
Screws
Wood for ledgers



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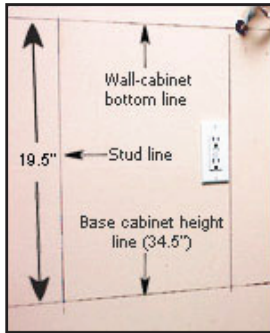
Project
Guide

Getting Ready to Install Cabinets, continued

Steps

Step 4 of 4

Step Four



Mark the bottom of the wall cabinets.

Draw a level line 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches above the top line of the base cabinets that you drew in the last step. Then mark all of the cabinets on the wall with a pencil and level to double-check your layout.

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