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NEWS

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How To Shop For Quality Kitchen Cabinets



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Tips On Finding Quality Kitchen Cabinets *Quick Tips For Homeowners*

Custom Kitchen Cabinets ARE Affordable

The look and feel of your kitchen is greatly affected by your cabinetry. In today's market there are literally hundreds of choices. When you consider that you can choose from up to 10 different wood species, 500 door styles and hundreds of colors, the decision process can be overwhelming if you don't know what to look for. The good news is that there is good quality available for every size budget. So it becomes important to know what a quality cabinet looks like. This article summarizes what to look for.



Go With the Pros

The first step is to choose a partner to work with that is professional. A professional cabinet installer will steer you toward a quality product. No matter what your budget is, a professional who is accustomed to working with and installing

quality cabinets will do their best to get you into the best quality that you can afford. Typically the pro will not want their name associated with an inferior product. So, working with a pro is like an insurance policy for quality.

Focus On Materials

You will want to know the difference between a veneer and a solid piece of wood. For instance an oak veneer means that there is a very thin layer of oak wood that has been laminated to another piece of wood, usually particle board. That piece then



becomes the door of an inexpensive cabinet. A higher end cabinet will use a door made up completely of a solid piece of oak. Both will look like oak on the exterior of the cabinet. But the solid piece will be more durable in the long run. Other things to compare in the materials will be the thickness of things like shelves, doors, backing and framework of the cabinets. Sizes can



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range from ½ to ¾ inches thick. Thicker materials will not sag under the weight of your stacked plates.

Inspect And Feel The Finish



The finish of the cabinet reveals a bit about the quality as well. You will want to ask questions about the process of the staining or painting. Are finishes baked on? How many coats are applied? Is the finish consistent from one cabinet door to the next? Will the

finish be resistant to stains? Remember that your cabinets will get heavy use and need to stand up to vigorous daily use and cleanings over time. The face of a quality cabinet shouldn't have knots, pitch pockets, sanding scars, grain irregularities or color differences. A consistent look will indicate a consistent and reliable manufacturing process. Consistency often equates to quality. Check the inside of the cabinets also. Run your hand up down the inside edges. Are the insides sanded and finished? Or, were they left rough and leave splinters?

Open The Doors And Drawers

Pull drawers out of the cabinet and turn them upside down. Notice the drawer slides and what they are made of. Do they use ball bearings? Or are the slides an inexpensive version that will only last a few years? Look at how the drawer is made. Is the bottom held in by staples? Or are there grooves in the sides of the drawer? How many sides? Three? Four? What holds the sides of the drawer together? A dovetail construction on all four corners of the drawer will be a solid well-built drawer. When a drawer is loaded down, you won't want the bottom to fall out or the sides to pull apart whenever you pull on the drawer.



Check Out The Parts

You will also want to inspect the hinges on the cabinet doors. Regardless of whether they are visible or not, the hinges should be strong and adjustable. The adjustment allows doors to align with the surrounding face-frame. Replacement parts should also be available. In today's market, the soft-touch hinges have become quite popular. Ask whether brand name hardware is being used and what the warranties are on those items.

Where To Start

In today's marketplace custom cabinetry can be designed and built to your specifications at a very affordable price. The key is to work with experienced cabinet builders and installers who know how to design to meet



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your need. [Custom Built Design & Remodeling](#) is a good choice. They have the experience and the track record in designing, building and installing custom cabinets for all budgets. Call Mike today at 517-881-8971.

Thank you! We really appreciate your business!

Chris & Mike



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