



## Cabinetry...things to consider

- Make sure the cabinet boxes or cases are made out of formaldehyde free solid plywood.
  - *Many people are allergic to formaldehyde in the glue which is in cheap imported wood products as it will "off gas" in the home and will be outlawed in Calif. Soon*
- Make sure the cabinet guy is using "solid plywood" not MDF or particle board.
  - *¾ solid ply wood cabinets are more stable in moisture sensitive areas. MDF, medium density fiberboard is card board and particle board is wood scrap chipped up and mixed with glue to make a sheet of material. These will swell; release the finish if they come in contact with moisture.*
- Make sure the face frames are either pocket hole screwed, doweled, mortised and tennon together with glue, not just stapled together.
  - *The face frame is critical to the strength of the case and should be sub-assembled as a unit then glued and screwed to the case.*
- Make sure the face frames are glued to the boxes not just stapled or "shot on" with nails to the case.
  - *Many shops don't glue the face frames to the case.*
- Make sure the drawers are dovetailed, made of solid wood and finished inside and out, not fiberboard that is stapled and unfinished.
  - *Finishing the inside of the drawer is critical in moisture sensitive areas*
- Make sure the drawer runners are full extension under mount soft closed by Blum not epoxy side runners, or cheap Asian copies of the original German-designed system.
  - *Many have tried to copy the German engineered drawer system and are not made with the same level of quality and often lack a life time guarantee.*
- Make sure the drawer runners are mounted to side walls inside the cabinet, not suspended from the face frame and the back of the cabinets.
  - *This is commonly seen on overlay cabinets that use a face frame. Not an issue when using "full inset" doors and drawers.*
- Make sure the hinges are heavy duty European hinges that are 6 way adjustable (Blum) or solid brass finial hinges with face frame construction.
  - *Hinges are high use components and are subject to fail if not high quality.*
- Make sure there is a 5" x ¾" solid wood top back brace along the length of the cabinet, not plastic corner blocks to hold the case together.
  - *Most cabinet companies use inexpensive plastic corner braces to keep cabinets square.*
- Make sure that all fixed shelves or horizontal partitions or braces are dadoed into the sides and not just attached at the surface.
- Make sure the finish is of high quality and the cabinet is fully finished (doors, inside and outside of drawers, the back, and interior of cabinet).

When cabinetry fails, it is primarily due to high levels of moisture, inferior wood case construction, poor finish and cheap hinges and drawer runners. Cabinetry is the easiest place to hide poor quality while charging premium prices. All the customer sees is the granite top and decorative doors. It is important to know what you are paying for underneath the top and behind the doors. Cabinetry is used every day and should last for the life of your home.

Be sure to visit <http://www.vanityflair.net/index.php?pr=Quality> to see our new video about construction. It will clear up common misconceptions about cabinet construction and demonstrate the techniques mentioned above.