



Comprehensive Cabinet Refacing Guide

Whether you're just curious about the process or ready to get started, this guide contains everything you need to know about refacing your cabinets. Get in-depth guidance every step of the way – from measuring and ordering, to install and maintenance.

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**MEASURE WITH
CONFIDENCE™**

NOW AVAILABLE - LEARN MORE

Ensure complete peace of mind during the ordering process! Get help measuring and get free remakes if there are any mistakes on your order.

Learn more about Measure With Confidence at www.myfrontandcenter.com/mwc

Need Help?

Give us a call at 1-800-816-6422

You can also leave us a message at myfrontandcenter.com/contact or use the LiveChat feature on our website!

We have a team of U.S. based refacing experts ready to answer any questions you have along the way!

How to Measure and Calculate for Framed Cabinets

You'll Need:

Tape Measure, Pencil, + Paper

PRO TIP:

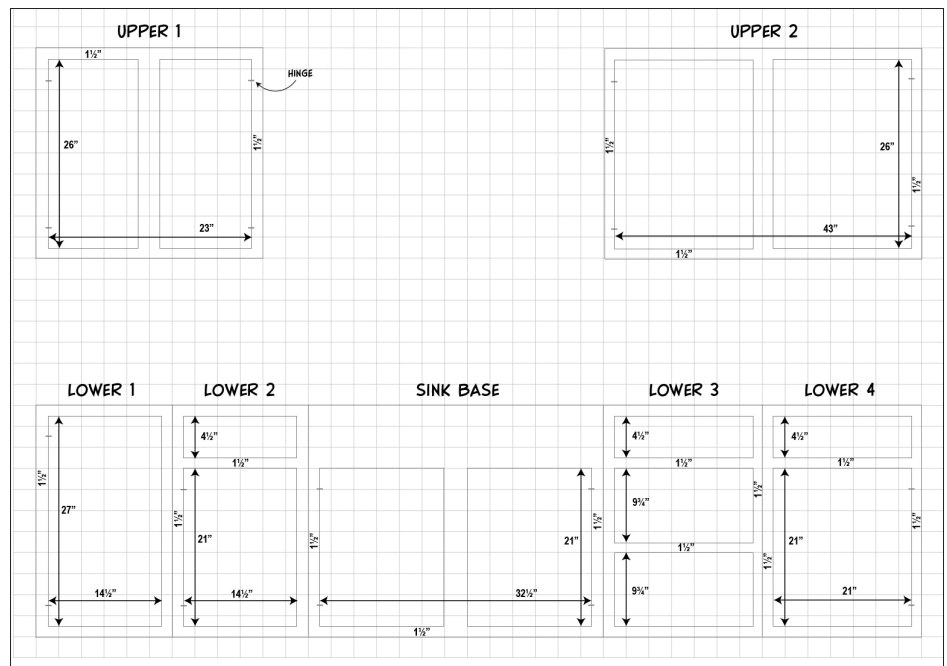
Many professional installers will convert the kitchen to an 1-1/4" overlay to cover up more of the cabinet surface during a refacing project. They are trained to look out for unique areas where 1-1/4" hinges will not work, such as corner cabinets or a cabinet butted up to a wall. For the typical DIYer, we recommend sticking with 1/2" overlay to reduce the risk of errors.

Sketch the Kitchen

Start by drawing a simple sketch of the kitchen layout. This will help you keep track of measurements and easily match each new door or drawer front with the correct opening during install.

Next, number the openings on your drawing. Start with the upper left doors, then the lower left doors. Then number the drawer fronts, also starting on the left side.

Write down the location of the hinges (left or right) on each door.



Single Cabinet Opening

Measurements should always be width x height in inches. Round to the nearest 1/16" (0.0625").

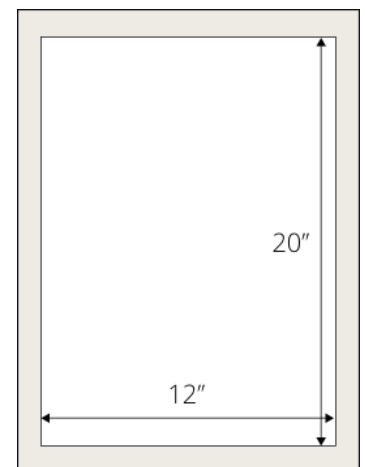
Open your cabinets and measure the width and height of the frame's opening. Make note of these measurements on your drawing.

To calculate the door size you need, you'll add 1/2" to each side and top and bottom to account for your 1/2" overlay. In other words, add 1" to your width and height dimensions.

Ex: 12" x 20" cabinet opening, order a 13" x 21" door.

Ex: 37" x 55" cabinet opening, order a 38" x 56" door.

Ex: 14.25" x 25.5" cabinet opening, order a 15.25" x 26.5" door.



Double Door Opening

Measure the full width of both openings including the center stile of the face frame and make note of the dimension on your drawing. Measure the height of the cabinet opening and make note on your drawing. To calculate the door width, add 1" to account for the 1/2" overlay on the left and right hinge sides, divide by 2 to get to the width of your 2 doors. To ensure the cabinet doors don't touch when closed, now subtract 1/16" from each door.

To calculate the height, add 1" to account for 1/2" overlay on the top and bottom.

Example:

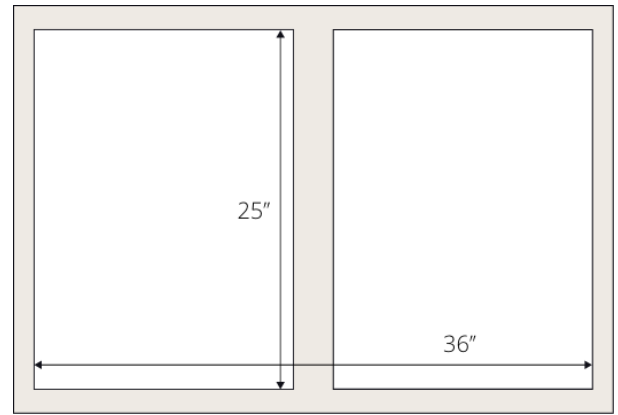
Width: $36" + 1" = 37"$

$37" \div 2 = 18.5"$

$18.5" - 0.0625" = 18.4375"$

Height: $25" + 1" = 26"$

Order two 18.4375" x 26" doors



Drawer + Door Combos or Bank of Drawers

To accurately measure drawer openings, it can be helpful to remove the drawer box. Measure the width and height of your opening plus the shared rails between openings and make note on your drawing. To calculate the drawer sizes, add 1" to the width and height to account for 1/2" overlay on each side. Please note, you need a minimum 1 1/8" shared rail between each opening for this formula to work.

If the shared rail is less than 1 1/8", you will need to calculate what overlay will work for your shared rail. The formula is: Rail height divided by 2 minus 1/16".

Make sure you use the same measurements for a run of cabinets in the same configuration so your doors and drawer fronts line up.

Example (see Fig. 5):

$22" + 1" = 23"$

$8" + 1" = 9"$

Order 23" x 9" drawer

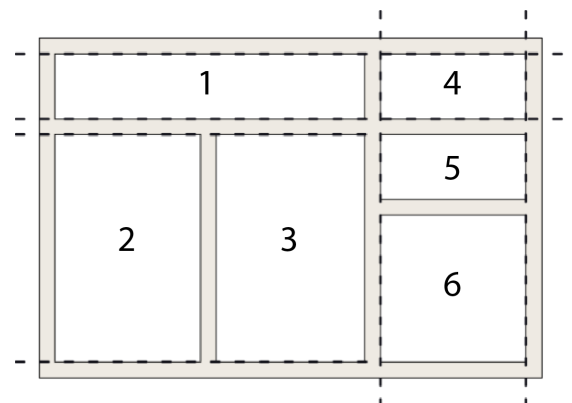
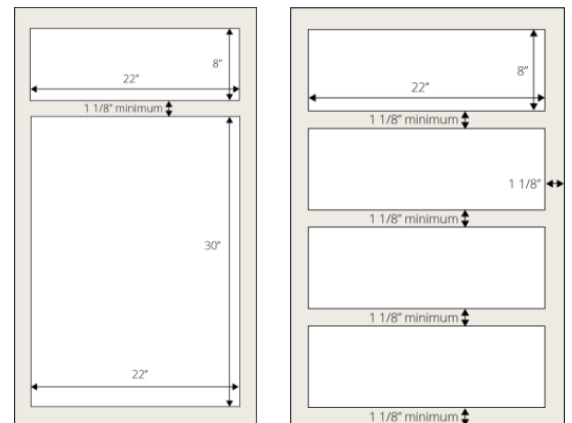
$22" + 1" = 23"$

$30" + 1" = 31"$

Order 23" x 31" door

Double check your calculations. Your fronts should align horizontally and vertically (i.e. Drawer 1 and 4 should be the same height. Drawers 5 + 6 + the space between them should equal the height of Doors 2 and 3).

You always want to measure and calculate twice, and order once!



Lazy Susan Doors

You will order your Lazy Susan doors as a set. The hinge side will be drilled for hinges. The handle side will not be drilled.

Measure the width from the inside corner to the edge of the face frame, make note on your drawing. Measure the height of the opening, make note on your drawing.

To calculate the widths, add 1/2" to overlay the cabinet on 1 side, subtract 7/8" to account for the thickness of the door where they meet in the middle.

To calculate height, add 1" to account for the 1/2" overlay on top and bottom.

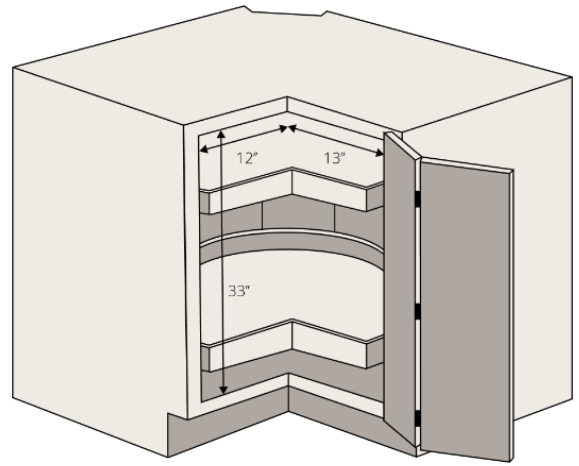
Example:

Handle Side Width: $12" + 0.5" - 0.875" = 11.625"$

Hinge Side Width: $13" + 0.5" - 0.875" = 12.625"$

Height: $33" + 1" = 34"$

Order 11.625" x 34" handle side and 12.625" x 34" hinge side doors.



PRO TIP:

Measure and calculate (at least) twice, order once! Double-check your measurements and calculations before placing an order. You can calculate for other overlay sizes, but be sure to order the correct hinges and understand there may be areas in your kitchen where your desired overlay doesn't work, such as a cabinet right next to a wall. Our friendly customer support staff is here to help if you have any questions as you measure.

How to Measure and Calculate for Frameless Cabinets

You'll Need:

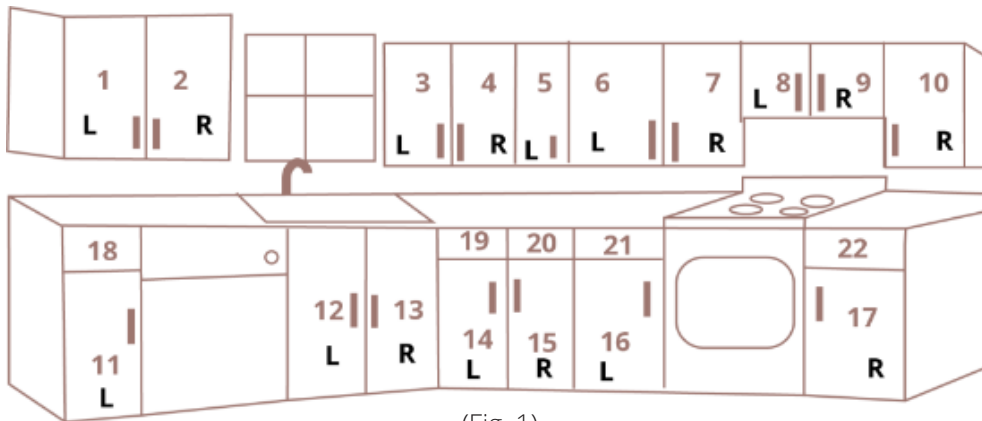
Tape Measure, Pencil, + Paper

Sketch the Kitchen

Start by drawing a simple sketch of the kitchen layout. This will help you keep track of measurements and easily match each new door with the correct opening during install.

Next, number the openings on your drawing. Start with the upper left doors, then the lower left doors. Then number the drawer fronts, also starting on the left side.

Write down the location of the hinges (left or right) on each door. (See Fig. 1)



(Fig. 1)

Measure the Existing Doors

With frameless cabinets, there is only one type of hinge that works so you can measure your old doors. Measure the back of the existing doors and drawer fronts by finding the width x height in inches, rounded to the nearest 1/16" (.0625).

Make sure you measure the back of the door in case it has a bevel or routed edge that could impact your measurement.

How to Prep + Paint Cabinets For New Fronts

You'll Need:

- Cabinet-Grade Paint
- 3-4" Foam Roller
- 1-1.5" Brush
- Small Paint Tray
- Putty Knife
- Wood Putty
- Sharp Utility Knife
- Painters Tape
- 120-180 Grit Sandpaper
- Sanding Block
- Plastic or Drop Cloth
- Scrap Wood or Doors (for paint testing)
- Painters Rags and Water
- Hammer
- Screw Gun w/ Assorted Drive and Drill Bits
- Pry Bar
- Nail Set
- Simple Green Degreaser

Bonus Items:

(optional, will help speed up the process)

- Electric Sander
- Shop-Vac
- Bondo for filling large voids (i.e. if your old cabinets used double demountable hinges)
- Fan for drying freshly washed cabinets
- TSP, or similar surface cleaner

Remove Existing Fronts

Remove all doors and drawer fronts. If you are replacing the trim and moulding, remove them too. Remove any remaining nails, or hammer them below the surface.

Clean + Degrease

Clean and degrease areas where excessive dirt, water, or oil can build up to make sanding easier. Typically, you'll want to check areas around sinks, cutting boards, above the stove and/or microwave, and where trash cans are stored.

Sand

After all surfaces are dry, sand the cabinet surfaces you are painting to a dull or hazy finish. This will help with paint adhesion.

PRO TIP:

You do NOT need to sand through any existing finish if it is solid and not peeling or chipping.

Make Repairs

Use wood putty and a putty knife to fill in any holes, cracks, and indentations in your cabinets. When the wood putty is dry, sand until areas are smooth and level. Vacuum or brush out the inside of the cabinets to remove any dust. Use a damp rag to wipe down all surfaces.

This is a good time to double-check your prepped areas to make sure you haven't missed any repairs. Check above drawers as knives tend to leave behind damage in these areas.

PRO TIP:

If you don't want to see the woodgrain through the paint, you can fill the grain by applying a thin layer of spackling paste with a wide putty knife. Make sure you sand and clean the surface again before painting.

How to Install New Doors + Drawer Fronts

You'll Need:

- Powered drill
- Set of various sized drill bits
- #2 Philips hand screwdriver
- Painter's Tape
- Measuring tape
- Pencil and fine point permanent marker
- Hinge mounting screws
- Door bumpers
- Hammer or rubber mallet
- Ruler
- Scotch brand heavy-duty mounting tape
- Hardware Installation Template

Before you install any doors or drawer fronts your prepared cabinets should be finished and completely dry.

1. Install Hinges

Align your hinge into the three-hole pattern. The hinges will only go in one way and should align easily. Once aligned, use your hammer or rubber mallet to hammer in the hinge. Do this for all doors.

2. Drill Pilot Holes

Use formula below to measure down from the top of the inside of the frame and mark a dot in center of frame. Do the same from bottom. This is where you will be predrilling for screws.

Hinge Bore Pattern – Overlay = Where to predrill

Hinge Bore Pattern	Overlay	Where to Predrill
2 1/2" (HB7)	1/2"	Drill 2" from bottom/top faceframe
3" (HB1 standard)	1/2"	Drill 2 1/2" from bottom/top faceframe
3 1/8" (HB5)	1/2"	Drill 2 1/8" from bottom/top faceframe

Hold up a new door to the opening and check to make sure the hinge holes line up with the marks you made.

Select a drill bit smaller than the hinge screw. Then, drill 1" deep into the frame where you have made your marks. Do not go any further than 1".

PRO TIP:

Wrap a piece of tape around your drill bit to mark 1" depth.

3. Install Doors

Use a Philips driver bit on your power drill (recommended) or a screwdriver and drive a screw through each hinge's mounting hole, mounting the door to the frame of the cabinet.

Repeat this process for all new doors.

After all doors are installed, use a screwdriver to adjust door alignment. Reference the instructions from the hinges you purchased on how to properly adjust your hinges. In this example, we used BLUM hinges that have three adjustments – the hole the door was installed through, the screw near the back of the hinge, and a screw near the front of the hinge.

4. Predrill Drawer Front Handles

It is best to pre-drill for decorative hardware before you install new drawer fronts.

1. Place the decorative hardware to find a position you like - for pull handles, most people center on width and height.

Use a simple template to make sure everything lines up perfectly. You can either buy a hardware installation template made for this purpose or you can use a piece of cardboard to make one yourself.

If making yourself, mark your cardboard template where the screws for the pulls will go, then use a sharp object to punch holes in the cardboard.

2. If using a pre-made template, determine which holes you will be using, then place a piece of tape over the template and punch out only the holes you will use - this will help prevent mistakes.

3. Place your template on the back side of the drawer front, and use a pencil to mark your drill holes. Hold your decorative hardware in place to double check that your drill hole marks are aligned properly.

4. Drill holes using a drill bit slightly larger than your decorative hardware screws. Wait to install the hardware until after you've affixed the drawer front to the drawer box.

5. Attach Drawer Fronts

1. Apply masking tape to your cabinet frame and use a pencil to mark your overlay of 1/2" on each side, top and bottom.

2. Place a 1" square of mounting tape in each corner of your drawer box. This will be used to temporarily affix the new drawer front.

3. Carefully align the drawer front with the face frame using the marks you made on the painter's tape.

4. Hold the drawer front tightly against the face frame and pull the drawer box forward to make sure it comes in contact with the drawer front (you may need to open the door or drawer below and reach in from behind the drawer to pull it forward).

5. Test your alignment. If you are not satisfied, use a rubber mallet to pop the front off and realign.

6. Secure the front to the box by installing your decorative hardware using your pre-drilled holes.

7. Place bumpers on the middle of each drawer front.

6. Install Door Knobs or Pulls

1. Use a purchased template or create your own using cardboard for consistency. Place your template on the door face and use a pencil to mark your drill holes. Hold your decorative hardware in place to double check that your drill hole marks are aligned properly.

2. With the door open, drill completely through the door using a drill bit slightly larger than the screw.

3. Using a drill or screwdriver, secure handle to the door. Note that if your door has a peel coat, you will want to remove it before installing the hardware.

4. Place bumpers on the inside corners of each door.