

CONTRACTOR PDF		BRUCE KRANZLER / CABINETMAKER / bruce@bkwood.com 415-454-8100 / 707-878-2389
ACCESS		Avoid "boat in the basement" syndrom. If there are going to be non-obvious restricting walls or openings let the cabinetmaker know before starting. Likewise for scaffolding in the way on delivery day!
FLOORS	SEQUENCE	Do floors go in after the cabinets? If so the cabinetmaker should be informed and can then compensate in the height of the base / toe kick.
	THICKNESS	Very important for obvious reasons, don't leave anything to chance. Thick mortar beds and tile can certainly change things. Floors in baths in particular can be overlooked because they're small and usually not a focus of any discussion.
	VENTS	Vents are often not in at the measuring phase for cabinets and are easy to miss. It's easier to provide for them in the shop. Best to mark them out and tell the cabinetmaker
HIGH POINT OF THE ROOM	KNOWING THIS IS HELP TO THE CABINETMAKER	The cabinets will be set from the highest point in the room. It is possible to shift an entire run down at a door break or opening but you never want to trim bases down because appliances are set to a 36" standard and you can create real problems by doing so. If you know the high spot it's good to let the cabinet maker know.
WALL BASEBOARD	TALL (over 4")	If the baseboard in the room is taller than the toe kick under the cabinets it can conflict with narrow scribe strips at the wall and cause clearance issues. Cabinetmaker should factor in wide enough trim strips to accommodate tall bases.
WALLS	THICKNESS	If job is measured to bare framing make sure the cainetmaker knows about shear walls and what other wall coverings,sheetrock (obviously), (tile in baths), are going to be used. There are many potential conflicts with these things.
APPLIANCES	GENERAL	Go over the appliances schedule together. There can be many issues with clearaces, power supplies that have to be concealed behind drawers, large scribe strips at the wall to accomodate refrigerator doors swings venting issues, etc. This is a time to deal with these things because they can be impossible later. Two sets of eyes are a help here.
CLEARANCE ISSUES	DISHWASHERS AND UNDER COUNTER REFRIG. / WINE	Domestic dishwashers can cause two real problems. One, they don't crank down far enough to get under anything but a standard counter height with a 1 1/2" edge detail. A two inch thick counter with a sub top wont work at 36" counter height. The concealed type fronts can require an extra inch front to back which can create real problems with layout at installation. European dishwashers crank down lower. Under counter refrigerators and wine coolers are often too high with extra thick countertops and a standard 36" finish counter.
	MICROWAVES	Require venting, extra depth (15",16"), electrical box. Verify how this is going to lay out. It might be good to order these last thing there is a wide size range. If they are too tightly fit they will burn out prematurely.

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	REFRIG.	Be careful of door swing requirements and wall clearance on hinge side. Some mfg.s require a lot of space next to a wall. Switch boxes in end panels need to have room which requires a face frame of adequate width.
PLUMBING	APPLIANCE	Go over location and access for dishwasher, ice maker, pot fillers, etc. These can impact cabinet layout.
	UNDER SINK	Any special requirements for undercounter roll outs if plumbing needs to be low or offset to make a rollout work. Plumber needs to know.
	FIXTURES	I've had problems with bar overhangs and high sink faucets. Hold the overhang on the sink side of the bar to a minimum. Another common problem is bathroom vanities, they are narrower than kitchen cabinets and large sinks with external faucets cause clearance problems. You might want to have the vanity built deeper than standard.
	ISLAND SINKS	Cabinetmaker needs to provide for vent loop behind the sink. Also, the placement of plumbing if the rough plumbing isn't in when the cabinets are measured.
	ROUGH PLUMB. OUTSIDE WALL	Anything that has to be concealed that isn't in place when cabinets are measured should be pointed out.
ELECTRICAL	CODE REQ.	Codes can vary from county to county and they can be difficult for island outlet requirements. Too often the outlets aren't drawn in and it is a problem routing wires. If shielded cable needs to be used the first meeting with the cabinetmaker is a good time to get this straight
	UNDER CAB. LIGHTING	Hold the light to the front of the recesses under cabinets. This prevents the light from being seen when seated out in the room. Should confirm space requirements to hide light.
	ELECTRICAL BOXES	These can conflict when installed in a refrigerator side panel for example. If the box is too deep and the frame trim isn't wide enough, you've got a problem.
COUNTERS	EXTRA THICK (1 3/4" OR MORE)	Be careful of undercounter appliance clearances. Refrigerators, dishwashers, wine coolers, etc. European dishwashers will crank down lower than domestic ones.
	HANGDOWN (PDF)	As simple as this is it can sure cause headaches. I'm referring to the edge detail of the countertop. Is it built up to 1 1/2" on the edge? Does it hang down on the cabinet box? Very important questions to have answered. Top drawers are dimensioned and set on the basis of this. Once a decision is made don't change it. (See PDF "DETAILS")
	TYPE	What are the counters made of? This can be important to the cabinetmaker. If tile or stone you would be wise to omit a flip-out tray in front of the sink. It needs the support of a solid apron for strength.
	CANTELEVER	The above is important for large overhangs as well especially if the material is heavy.

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	"L" BRACKET	Many kitchens have raised bar. Supporting the overhang is always a problem. Modern cabinets look better without hokey corbels supporting them. L brackets are unsightly and inherently weak. Unless, that is, you make them long and fasten them on the back side to the bar support, not on the face of the bar. It is much stronger and very clean why did it take so long for me to figure it out. You can inset them into the bottom side of a wooden top too. 1/2" steel strap 1 1/4" wide works well.
	FLAT BRACKET	Heavy steel strap routed into a sub top of an island can support a cantilevered overhang. The weight of the top goes a long way to securing it too.