

Kitchens Installation Information

Kitchens Installation Preparation

1. Remove Kitchens

Preparation should take place a few days prior to fitting your new kitchen and provision will no doubt have to be made to visit the local take-away for the duration. Once the kitchen sink has been removed, it's a good idea to fit an angled washing machine valve to the cold supply for filling the kettle while you're without a sink. Fit blanks to all other exposed pipe work.

2. Check your kitchen plumbing and electricity

The ideal time to carry out plumbing and electrical alterations is prior to any re-plastering. As the kitchen is the place where most electrical appliances are concentrated, it is important to check that your existing wiring is capable of coping with the load placed on it at busy periods.

If you possess a plan for your new kitchen, obtaining a first fix preparation layout will help you to determine the position of all electrical and plumbing services to the nearest millimetre. As well as reducing installation time, arranging your own first fix should also reduce installation costs.

Wall socket boxes and tails of cable for sockets below worktop height can now be positioned where required. Provision should also be made for ceiling and under-cupboard lighting at this stage.

Gas and water services can also be positioned in preparation for cabinet installation, as can any waste pipes or extraction holes. At this point it is important to refer to the laws relating to work on gas appliances or fittings. Details can be found at the following web address:

http://www.corgi-gas.com/working_law.asp

Once the pipe-work is in position behind the relevant cabinet/s, fitting isolating valves will eliminate the need to shut off the house water supply whilst the installation is being carried out. Provision to access these valves can be made later when fitting the cabinets. A good point to remember at this stage is to ensure any pipe-work passing behind integrated appliances is installed tight to the wall and at a low level depending on the appliance depth and configuration. Overlooking this point will mean your integrated appliance doors will protrude from adjacent cabinet doors.

This is to be avoided unless you wish to set a new trend!

3. Check your walls

After removing your old kitchen it's worth checking the condition of the plaster.

The finish and strength of the walls ultimately determine how your kitchen will look and to ignore it at this stage may spoil the final appearance.

Fitting units or tiles to perished plastering is like placing your best china in a fruit-box and I strongly advise any rectification to be made during preparation,

(a sight you won't relish after installation is the plasterer standing on your new worktops trying to reach the bare wall above your new cupboards). You may find that although your walls can be re-plastered after fitting, your worktops and sink have more scratches than an ice rink.

If major plastering is required once you have removed your old kitchen, be sure to give it sufficient time to dry before fitting any units otherwise the cabinets will swell due to moisture content

Although time taken on completing the above will of course prolong the installation, it will ultimately bring you peace of mind and you'll be safe in the knowledge that all your surfaces are sound.

4. One final step before installing kitchens

Once you've completed the above steps and your plastering is dry you're ready to mark levels on the wall.

Firstly, determine the depth of the floor covering and add this measurement to the height of the units (without worktops). For example: Depth of tiles = 12mm. Height of units = 870mm. A line will be made at a height of 882mm. This will allow easy fitting of the kickboard on completion.

Having completed the preparation it's now time to begin fitting the units and providing services have been positioned correctly this will be a much easier task than you thought.

Kitchens Installation – Wall Units

Okay. The kitchen units have arrived. You feel so confident that you've arranged a dinner party for the weekend. Now then, where do you start fitting kitchens? It can't be that difficult can it, your Dad did his own kitchen -all right, Mum was cooking on a camping stove in the living room for three months- but it looked fantastic when it was finished and they did eventually start talking again. I find that the least disruptive method of fitting kitchens is to start with your wall cabinets.

Tools required:

- Pencil
- Tape Measure
- Power Drill
- Masonry Bits - 10 or 12 Gauge
- 5mm High speed twist bit
- Countersink
- Hand Screwdrivers
- Cordless Screwdrivers
- Spirit Levels - medium and long
- Rawlplugs
- Screws of various sizes
- Extension Lead
- Safety Equipment, e.g. Goggles; Dust Mask; Ear Defenders

Step 1: Marking the height of your kitchen wall units

Always begin at the highest point after checking your floor level and transfer a line marking the top of your units, with your pencil, around the walls on which they are to be fitted. This will act as a guideline when levelling the units.

The height will vary depending on which size kitchen wall units you are installing but generally you should aim to leave a space of 500mm between the top of the work surface and the underside of the cupboard.

If you are installing a full height housing then its height will determine the height of the wall units and the line must be drawn at the same height.

Step 2: Marking the wall bracket positions

Next you will have to mark out the wall bracket positions. To determine this, unpack a wall cabinet and hold the bracket under the cabinet hanger. At the same time measure from the top of the units to the centre of the fixing holes in the wall bracket. Now, transfer this measurement to the wall, measuring down from the line that already marks the top of the wall units.

Starting from the corner and using the spirit level, transfer the wall unit sizes, by a series of vertical lines on each elevation on which the units are to be fitted.

From these lines, measure 22mm in and place the wall bracket so that the fixing holes are central over the horizontal line that marks the drilling points. Mark each hole with the pencil. Continue this for each wall unit.

Step 3: Drilling of the walls

You're now ready to drill the walls. A good tip here is to angle the drill downwards when drilling; this will serve to strengthen the fixing and prevent the screws from working loose.

I recommend the use of at least 2 ½" x 10 Gauge screws for securing the brackets to the wall.

Step 4: How to hang your kitchen units

The units are now ready to be fitted to the wall. The majority of wall units have fully adjustable hangers that come in a variety of configurations. These generally adopt a similar principle in that two adjustment screws can be accessed from the front of the units with a pozi drive screwdriver.

This allows the installer to adjust levels both inwards and upwards or if necessary, outwards and downwards. Starting with the corner wall unit – raise unit above brackets, slide down till the cabinet hangers connect. Using a long hand screwdriver, tighten back to the wall ensuring the cabinet remains plumb. Now adjust height to the pencil line indicating the top of the wall units.

You have just hung your first unit. Subsequent units will need to be fitted in the same way.

If your corner is designed in a conventional way i.e. two separate units, now is the time to fit your corner post. Attach this to the correct unit using angle brackets or half blocks and after hanging and levelling the other unit, connect the two, again using half blocks or angle brackets fixed to the corner post.

It is imperative that levels are maintained correctly for all dimensions as this will make for easier door adjustment when they are fitted.

