

How to Measure Framed Cabinets

Choose Your Overlay

Before you measure, you will need to decide your overlay. An overlay is how much of the door covers the cabinet face frame (see Fig 1). Most kitchens in the US have a $\frac{1}{2}$ " overlay. This means the door overlaps the face frame by $\frac{1}{2}$ " on all 4 sides of a cabinet's opening. Why does this matter? The type of hinges you purchase must match the desired overlay. You may also wonder why you can't just measure your old doors and order new ones in the same size? Most of the time you will be replacing older exposed hinges. The drilling we provide on your new doors only works with newer style concealed hinges. We recommend a Compact Hinge, such as Blum Blumotion. Soft close hinges are a nice upgrade.

PRO TIP:

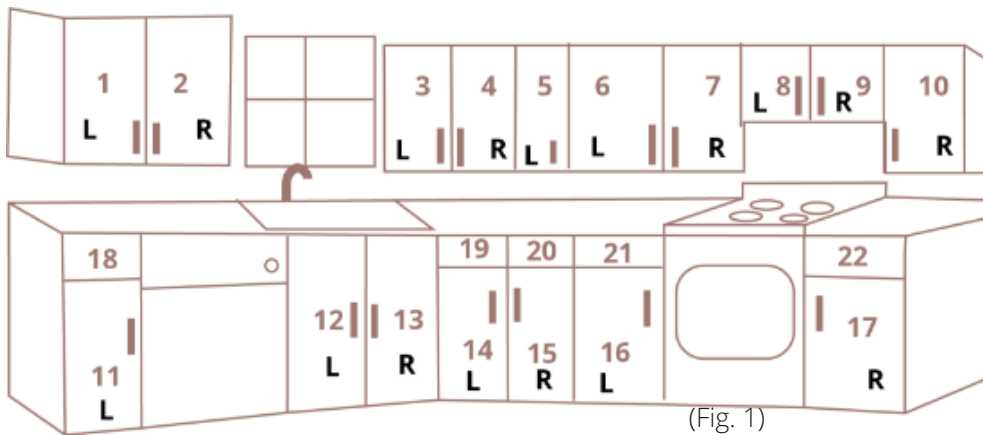
Many professional installers will convert the kitchen to an 1-1/4" overlay to cover up more of cabinet surface during a refacing project. They are trained to look out for unique areas where 1-1/4" hinges will not work, such as corner cabinets or a cabinet butted up to a wall. For the typical DIYer, we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

We will show you how to measure for a $\frac{1}{2}$ " door overlay using $\frac{1}{2}$ " overlay hinges.

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.

Now add $\frac{1}{2}$ " to each side to account for the $\frac{1}{2}$ " overlay and write down the measurements on your kitchen sketch.

You'll add 1" to your width and height dimensions:

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

(See Fig 3.)

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.

Measure for Double Cabinet Opening

For width, measure the full width of both openings including the center portion of the face frame. Add 1" to account for 1/2" overlay on the outside hinge sides, divide by 2 to get to the width of your 2 doors. To ensure the doors don't touch when closed, now subtract 1/16" from each door.

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

Example:

$$\text{Width } 36" + 1" = 37"$$

$$37" \div 2 = 18.5"$$

$$18.5" - 0.0625" = 18.438"$$

$$\text{Height } 25" + 1" = 26"$$

Order two doors 26" x 18.438"

Measuring Drawer + Door Combos or Bank of Drawers for New Fronts

For areas with a drawer above or below a door, or a bank of drawers, measure each opening and add 1" to width and height to account for 1/2" overlay on each side. Please note, you need a minimum 1 1/8" rail between each opening for this formula to work.

If the rail is less than that, divide the difference between the 2 fronts and subtract 1/16" to create a gap between them. 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:

$$22" + 1" = 23"$$

$$8" + 1" = 9"$$

Order Drawer 23" x 9"

$$22" + 1" = 23"$$

$$30" + 1" = 31"$$

Order 23" x 31" Door

Measuring for 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.

For width, measure from inside corner to the edge of the face frame. Add 1/2" to overlay the cabinet on 1 side, subtract 3/4" to account for thickness of the door where they meet in the middle.

For height: Add 1" to account for 1/2" overlay on top and bottom.

Example:

$$\text{Handle Side Width: } 12" + 0.5" - 0.75" = 11.75"$$

$$\text{Hinge Side Width: } 13" + 0.5" - 0.75" = 12.75"$$

$$\text{Height: } 33" + 1" = 34"$$

Order 11.75" x 34" handle side and 12.75" x 34" hinge side doors.

PRO TIP:

Measure (at least) twice, order once! Double-check your measurements before placing an order. You can measure 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.