The step-by-step guide to installing your new kitchen right

This brochure is your guide to preparing and installing your new kitchen. Inside you’ll find tips and ideas, clear steps to follow and the tools you’ll need. Use this guide along with your assembly instructions to make sure your kitchen is installed correctly.

You can do it yourself but you don’t have to

Our kitchens are designed to be simple to install and assemble yourself, but we’re here to help as much as you would like along the way. Whether you’d like a hand with delivery or a complete installation service, we’re happy to put together a service package that suits you. For more details, see the kitchen section of IKEA-USA.com or contact your local IKEA store.

Before you begin

Take a look at this brochure to see what steps are involved in installing your new kitchen and organize what tools you’ll need.

Once you’ve received your kitchen, double-check that all the parts have arrived. A good way to do this is by checking what packages you have at home against the order list. You should only dismantle your old kitchen when you have all your new parts and appliances.

Your kitchen parts and countertop should be stored indoors, with normal room temperature and humidity levels. It’s helpful if you arrange your cabinets in the order you will be installing them. Use your shopping list and IKEA home planner drawing to help you.

Remove your old kitchen making sure that electric, water and gas are off before you begin. Use a qualified, licensed professional to disconnect and connect your gas, water and electricity.

The materials and tools you’ll need

The tools you’ll need depend on how much of your kitchen you are doing yourself. See the assembly instructions for the tools you’ll need to use. It’s a good idea to wear safety glasses when using power tools.

Once your kitchen arrives, check off your delivery to see that everything is in order.
Prepare your room

Once you have removed your old kitchen, prepare your room by making sure your walls and floor are even, and that your walls are suitable for supporting your new kitchen. Now is also the time to prime and paint your walls, put in tiles or change your flooring.

Marking cabinet positions

Draw a layout of your new kitchen directly on the wall. Check that everything fits with the measurements from your plan and your electricity, water, gas and ventilation connections are where you want them. Also mark where to attach your new kitchen’s suspension rails.

Prepare your space by making sure your corners are even and your walls and floor are straight. Use your try square for the corners and a spirit level for the walls and floor. Make sure you note the highest point of the floor and where the corners are not 90 degrees.

Double-check your plumbing is where you want it and fits with your layout plan.

Set your suspension rail

With the new IKEA kitchen system, your cabinets can be hung directly onto a suspension rail making them easier to install and easier to adjust. It’s important to make sure your suspension rail is straight and level, and to secure it with the right screw type for your wall.

Marking the right height for your suspension rail

Your base suspension rail needs to be hung 32 3/16” above your floor’s highest point (measure to the underside of the rail). You should allow 22 5/16” between the bottom of your wall cabinets and the bottom of your base rail when measuring for your upper rail.

Take a coffee break. With your kitchen layout drawn and your suspension rails up, you’ve completed the preparation stage for your kitchen.

Remember to leave space between your base cabinets for a dishwasher.

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Check that your wall is strong enough to hang your suspension rail and cabinets. Depending on your wall material, it’s best to install your rail onto a stud or a support beam. An electronic stud finder can be helpful.

Fasten your rails, base rail first. Make sure you’ve found suitable points in the wall where the rails can be attached and that the rails are level before drilling.

If your wall is uneven use shims between the rail and the wall to make sure the rail is flush.

Check each rail to ensure that it is level.

Make sure you leave 32 3/16” between the highest point of your floor and the bottom of your base suspension rail.

Check that everything fits with the measurements from your plan and your electricity, water, gas and ventilation connections are where you want them. Also mark where to attach your new kitchen’s suspension rails.

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Install your cabinets

In most kitchens it’s best to install your wall cabinets first. This will allow you to move around without base cabinets in the way. One exception is if you are installing a single line kitchen with a high cabinet at one end. In this case install the high cabinet first.

Before you begin, mark down all plumbing and other utilities. Some cabinets have ready-made openings for plumbing and utilities, but you can use a jigsaw to create your own openings, if needed. Do this before fitting the cabinet in place. Be aware that these openings can affect how you can arrange drawers in a cabinet.

Assemble all wall cabinet frames according to the assembly instructions. Wait until later before fitting drawers, doors and internal fittings.

Hang your base cabinets starting in the corner. Hang all remaining cabinets in the same way. If you’re installing a corner carousel now is the time to place it in the cabinet.

Hang the corner cabinet first and secure by tightening the screws. Hang the remaining cabinets and connect them with the included screws. Wait to tighten the screws until the base cabinets are in place and you can ensure alignment.

Assemble all base cabinets according to the assembly instructions. Make sure to have the legs attached in the order the cabinets will be installed.

Cabinet legs connecting two cabinets can be used to support both cabinets while you’re installing. Remember to use the distance ring included with the legs.

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If the wall is not level and flat, the filler piece must be cut to fit to the wall’s shape. To do this, you’ll need a filler piece, measuring tape, small block of wood about 1 1/3” thick and a pencil. Cut the filler piece so it’s the same height as the cabinet. Place the edge of the filler piece against the wall. Hold the block of wood flat against the wall with the pencil against it. Keep them pressed against the wall as you slide them down the length of the filler piece. Now you have traced the shape of the wall onto the filler piece. Cut along your trace line. Place the newly cut edge of the filler piece against the wall, it should fit perfectly. Mark the edge of the cabinet on the top and bottom of the filler piece. Draw a straight line from these points and cut.

Check the wall with your level to see if it is straight. If the wall is even, measure between the wall and the cabinet and mark this distance at the top and bottom of the filler piece.

To ensure the filler piece stays in place, first attach a support strip to the wall. Drill holes in the cabinet for the screws you’ll use to attach the cabinet and filler piece together. Put the filler piece into place. Put screws through the holes you have drilled. When all your filler pieces are in, caulk around each one with silicone for an airtight seal.

If you are going to install a high cabinet, don’t make final adjustments or fully tighten the screws until you have installed all the other cabinets.

GOOD TO KNOW

If you’re installing a kitchen island, it must be secured to the floor using UTBY legs or by building a frame. Fasten the frame to both the floor and the cabinets. When attaching the frame to the floor be aware of amenities like floor heating or plumbing already installed.
Install your countertop, sink, lighting, appliances and kitchen island.

With your cabinet frames in, it’s time to install your countertop, sink, lighting and appliances. Check that your countertop is the correct size before fitting it in place. Now is also the time if you need to customize your countertop for a sink or cooktop (see your assembly instructions for help).

Once your countertop is in, you’re ready to get your water, gas, lighting and appliances connected. All water, gas and electricity connections must be done by qualified, licensed professionals according to valid local safety regulations.

All electrical connections must be made by a qualified, licensed electrician.

Use a circular saw and G clamps to hold a straight-edge to your pre-cut countertop when you cut to customize the size. It’s helpful to use a pair of sawhorses.

To prevent moisture from penetrating the countertop apply polyurethane silicone across the sawn edges.

Proof measure your countertop. If you have a pre-cut countertop now is the time to cut it to the right length.

Mark a spot for the sink by laying the countertop in place. Trace the inside of the base cabinet onto the underside of the countertop. This helps you align your sink. Turn your countertop over and trace the outline of your sink onto masking tape.

Use a jigsaw to cut out space for your sink. It’s helpful to drill a hole on the inside corners of your outline before cutting, so you can make a cleaner cut.

Use a circular saw and G clamps to hold a straight-edge to your pre-cut countertop when you cut to customize the size. It’s helpful to use a pair of sawhorses.

Supporting brackets are used to fasten kitchen islands to the floor. Legs/toekicks must then be attached around the outside of the island.

The Kitchen island assembly kit is used to connect cabinets back to back or for attaching a cover panel to the back of cabinets.

Customize your countertop for your cooktop in the same fashion as for your sink. See your cooktop’s assembly instructions for help.

Install the extractor hood. The extractor hoods at IKEA can be installed in two ways: either ducted to the outside, called extraction, or used in recirculation mode fitted with a charcoal filter. Each installation option is described in the assembly instructions that come with the product. Saw the hole either in the back panel or in the top of the cabinet. See the assembly instructions. For safety and functionality reasons, follow precise measurements in the instructions for installation that come with the extractor hood/fan.

GOOD TO KNOW:
It’s important to attach a moisture barrier under the countertop where you have a dishwasher. All IKEA dishwashers come with a protection strip. For other appliances, use FIXA diffusion barriers for extra protection.
Install your shelves, drawers, doors, knobs and handles.

Now that the cabinet frames, countertops and appliances are in, attach the drawer slides into the cabinets. Remember that the slides for inner and standard drawers are attached differently (see the assembly instructions for help).

Once the slides are in, attach the drawers before the doors and shelves. Finish by adding knobs and handles as well as any other internal solutions (like wire baskets).

Attach the drawer slides, starting with the outer drawers. Outer drawer slides should be attached to the outer row of holes in the cabinet.

Attach the hinges for the doors.

Once the outer drawer slides are in, attach the inner drawer slides. The inner drawer slides are attached to the inner row of holes in the cabinet.

Attach the drawers and doors to the cabinets.

Assemble the drawers with the help of the assembly instructions.

Align the doors to the correct height and width by adjusting the screws on the hinge plate.

Join its time to attach a toekick. Follow the assembly instructions for help.

If using a ventilation grill, place it between two pieces of toekick.

You’re done! Congratulations on your new kitchen!

Caring for your cabinets
Clean the doors, cabinet interiors and wood surfaces with a soft, damp cloth. Only use cleaning products intended for these materials. Do not use products that contain ammonia, alcohol, bleach or abrasives. Rinse with clean water, then dry with a clean, dry cloth. Make sure to clean up spills quickly.

Keep your sink sparkling
After each use, wipe the sink clean with a cloth or sponge damped in water or a non-abrasive detergent, if necessary. Rinse the bowl with water and wipe the sink with a dry cloth. Avoid scouring-powder, steel wool, or hard objects which can scratch the stainless steel surface. The damp surface can be discolored if substances containing iron are allowed to remain on it.

Long-lasting countertops
Keep your countertop in top condition by cleaning spills quickly with water and a mild detergent. Be sure to keep them as dry as possible after use. For wood and solid wood countertops use BEHANDLA wood treatment oil. The oil protects the wood from marks, stains and cracks, and prevents water from penetrating the surface.

YOU’RE DONE!
Time to step back and admire your new kitchen – and admire yourself for saving so much money by assembling and installing it yourself! With a little care and maintenance your new IKEA kitchen will keep looking its best for many years to come.
ALL THE HELP YOU NEED TO MAKE YOUR DREAM KITCHEN A REALITY

At IKEA we believe everyone has the right to a new kitchen. Apart from offering a wide range of kitchens, we also offer a wide range of services that include measuring, planning and installation. Everything you need to make getting your dream kitchen as easy as possible. At your local IKEA store you’ll find our team of kitchen experts who are always on hand to answer questions, give practical advice and help you through the buying process.

MEASURING SERVICE

Have an experienced professionals from an Independent Service Provider come to your home and take all of the essential measurements and notes. Prices start from $49. When you buy an IKEA Kitchen it costs you nothing - your measurement service fee is refunded to you.

INDIVIDUAL KITCHEN PLANNING

A professional kitchen planner from an Independent Service Provider will visit your home for up to 4 hours to give you a detailed layout of your kitchen, individual cabinets, appliances and countertops.

INSTALLATION PRICE QUOTE

Upon completion of your kitchen plan, an experienced kitchen remodeling professional from an Independent Service Provider will visit your home to discuss the scope of work, price and timeline for installation.

INSTALLATION SERVICE

Save time and effort with professional installation provided by an Independent Service Provider.

Prices are valid until June 30, 2015