Taking On Your Kitchen Remodel Like a Pro

Whether this is your first DIY (do-it-yourself) project or you’re a seasoned pro, there’s no reason why you need to tackle your renovation alone and shouldn’t have all available resources at your fingertips. If you’re new to the DIY scene or haven’t done a renovation this big, you may be 100% ready for everything that’s ahead or you may want to hire a few experts along the way – either way, we’re here to give you all the info you need to make the best decisions for your project.

Use this section to find all types of information to help you organize and plan your project.
Utilize the Experts!

Our full staff of professional kitchen designers are just waiting to help you create the kitchen of your dreams. You have everything in your head: how tall the cabinets should be, how many drawers for pots and pans, a wine rack here and plate rack there, the perfect finish and door style. But, how do you make that vision come to life? That’s where we come in.
Why You Can Trust Us!

Willow Lane Cabinetry was built off the need for top quality customer service and endless options for amazing kitchen and bathroom cabinets – or any other room of the home! We have broken down the barrier between the two and they are no longer mutually exclusive.

Purchasing a kitchen can be a daunting task - especially online. We like to take out the scary aspect of purchasing online and turn it into a fun project that will not only make your kitchen look great but will undoubtedly increase the value of your home as well! Our professional kitchen designers can help you every step of the way! From initial ideas, to measuring, to design, tweak, and completion - until you are completely satisfied!

But what about purchasing such a large amount online?
That’s a great question – why should you trust us? Here is why:

Safety: We are both McAfee and Norton Secure with a 128-bit (SSL) encryption

- Service: We have an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau (BBB), a 5 star rating from Trustlink.org, and an excellent rating from ResellerRatings.com!

- Leadership: We are leaders in what we do! We have been honored on Internet Retailers Second 500 List every year, since 2011 and we were honored in Internet Retailers Social Media Top 500 since 2013! We have also been featured in the Inc. 5000 list of America's Fastest-Growing Private Companies since 2015!

- Featured Products: Our products have been featured numerous HGTV and the DIY Network television shows! Including the popular show The Vanilla Ice Project two years in a row!

- Incredible Reviews: Check out our amazing customer testimonials if you need more proof!

- Proud member of the National Kitchen & Bath Association!
The kitchen is the most popular room in the house, where you will cook, dine, and entertain, sometimes, all at once. Designing your kitchen is more than just placing a wall cabinet here and a base cabinet there. It’s about creating the best layout for your personal needs and making sure it matches your lifestyle. By utilizing our FREE personal design service, you will work one-on-one with your own designer and they will advise you on the best way to design your kitchen based on the info you give them. Need lots of counter space? Want as many drawers as possible? Love the look of decorative accessories like valances, posts, corbels, and stove hoods – or don’t know what any of those are? That’s what your designer is here for. To make sure you have everything you need to make your kitchen dream a reality, from the toe kicks on the base cabinets to the crown molding on the wall cabinets and everything in between. They will assist you in as much or as little as you need. If you want help with coordinating two different cabinet finishes or even the new wood floors or backsplash you want to put in, they will advise you on the best styles and finishes to make your entire kitchen come together.
100% Freedom and Flexibility To Design the Way You Want To

Our design team works around your schedule. When you’re paired up with your own personal designer, you will communicate with them via email and phone, on your time-line. Feel free to contact us while you’re at work, on the go, on vacation, or just when you roll out of bed in the morning. If you’re not sure how to measure your kitchen, your designer will help you with that as well. They will make sure they have everything they need to show you a spectacular kitchen design. You will receive 3D images of what your brand new kitchen will look like in the style and finish you choose. Feel free to make as many adjustments to the design as you’d like – there is no limit to the amount of changes you make and never an obligation to buy. When you finalize your layout, your designer can also send you an itemized price quote so you know exactly what your new kitchen will cost.
Many DIY’ers will hire a professional contractor for at least part of their remodel project.

There are pros and cons to hiring a pro. On one hand, as long as you’ve done your research, you can rest easy that your project is being done the right way and likely faster than if you were to do it yourself. However, you will inevitably spend more money to hire a pro than if you were to complete the hired task by yourself. If you have the knowledge to do a project yourself and you don’t have any time constraints, the money savings may be worth it to you to pass on the pro. On the other hand, it may be worth every penny to have the peace of mind that a pro can offer you in addition to their speediness.

If You’re Going to Go Pro...

Make sure to do all your research. Talk to friends, family, co-workers, or anyone else whose opinion you trust. Referrals are a great way to find a good Pro to hire. They’ve already been vetted by the people you trust. However, don’t stop there. Be sure to check reviews online and if they have a good standing with the BBB or any other widely recognized organization.
What to Ask a Pro Before Hiring Them

- **References** – Even if you’re referred by a family or friend, still get a list of references so you can see the work they’ve done.

- **How long have they been in business and are they certified?**

- **Time-line** – Many people would be surprised at how fast contractors get booked in advance, so start early and make sure to find out what their schedule is like and how it fits into yours.

- **Do they specialize in kitchen remodels?** This may seem like a no brainer, but not all contractors will deal mainly with kitchen remodels, so it’s a good question to ask.

- **What happens if you change something mid-way through the project?** Will that be possible and what types of costs would be involved (this may not be able to be determined until they know what the actual change would be but you can at least get an idea of how they work with changes in general – do they allow time for changes?)

- **Will there be a written contract?** This is always good to have to ensure that the work is done exactly the way you anticipated and there are no grey areas. The contract should deal with such things as itemized pricing for each part of the project, permits needed, who is responsible for purchasing items, who will be receiving deliveries, how long will workers be at your home each day, estimated project start and end dates along with a time-line of what should be completed by when, and a payment schedule to follow.

- **NEVER pay for an entire project up front** – it should be worked out ahead of time between you and your contractor in a way that’s fair and reasonable to both of you.
Red Flags To Watch Out For When Hiring a Pro

If they’re asking questions about the items you’re purchasing, for example, they don’t know what a certain type of molding is or how to install light rail molding on the bottom of wall cabinets, this might indicate they’re not very familiar with kitchen cabinets and accessories and/or have never installed a kitchen before.

You don’t want to be their guinea pig – a good, reputable, experienced contractor will know what most types of cabinets and accessories are, how they’re used, and how to install them.

Ways to Save Even With a Pro

Just because you’re hiring a contractor doesn’t mean you can’t find ways to save money along the way. Here are a few ways to keep extra money in your pockets:

• Do the demo yourself – contractors will charge separately to demolish your space in preparation for your new kitchen. Save the money on demo by taking a sledgehammer to work yourself!

• Other work you can do yourself that doesn’t require a ton of expertise but can save you $$$: painting, installing backsplashes or even installing the cabinets yourself.

• Be resourceful – many times contractors will work with other professionals and will be able to get discounts you normally wouldn’t be able to get. For example: flooring, backsplashes, counter tops, appliances, sinks, etc... However, make sure to look around also, you may find some slightly used materials like the ones listed above that could go perfectly in your space and cost a fraction of the price of buying brand new.

• Enlist your friends and family – don’t be afraid to solicit friends and/or family members for help with demo, painting, etc...
The best way to make sure your remodel goes off without a hitch (or with as few hiccups as possible) is to have a plan and make sure you’re covering all your bases. Don’t just dive in head first, this could result in poor project management and lots of unforeseen problems, both of which could result in a remodel taking much longer and costing much more than originally anticipated.
Things to Consider Before Beginning Your Remodel

- **How long do I anticipate this will take?** It’s good to establish a general time-line, but remember that things can arise that may delay your initial plan so be sure to add in a little buffer so any delays don’t throw your whole remodel off kilter.

- **What’s the best time for this project?** There are a lot of things to consider when your kitchen will be out of commission. Do you have children? Would it be better to do it in the summer as opposed to the school season? If you live in an area where it gets cold in the winter, would it be better to wait until the warmer months? How busy is your schedule and are there any major holidays or celebrations during your anticipated remodel time-line?

- **All that technical stuff** – be sure to do your research on what codes you will need to follow according to where you live and what permits are necessary. The last thing you want is an unnecessary delay in your remodel because something isn’t up to code or a permit is missing. If you’re working with a contractor, they should know what will be needed, but make sure to factor in any extra time it will take for your contractor to obtain all necessary permits.

- **Relocating your kitchen** – chances are, your kitchen will be completely gutted. This means that not only will you need to find temporary homes for appliances, furniture, food, cookware and other items in your kitchen, but you will also need to create a make-shift kitchen in another room in your house to use until your new kitchen is fully functioning again.

- **Minimize any extra and unnecessary work** – try to keep the dish-washing to a minimum since you likely won’t have access to your dishwasher. Paper and plastic products (plates, bowls, cups, and plastic ware) will become staple. No one wants to wash dinner dishes in the bathroom sink. Your microwave will become your new best friend, since your oven will likely be out of commission as well, and even if it’s not, you won’t want to deal with dirty pots and pans during your remodel.

- **Coordinating and ordering all your purchases** – Between cabinets, countertops, flooring, backsplashes, appliances, and any other items being purchased for your kitchen, you will be receiving a lot of deliveries at various times throughout your remodel. Try and find estimated delivery times for each product and account for any manufacturer, shipping, or contractor delays as best you can. If you have a large space for storage (garage, basement, spare room, etc...), you may want to order as much as you can ahead of time to ensure it’s already there when it’s time for installation. You will also want to make sure every item is inventoried and carefully inspected upon delivery.
Island Kitchen

Islands can be added to most kitchen designs and if you have a large kitchen, you should definitely incorporate an island in the design. However, you don’t need an enormous kitchen to utilize an island. The great thing about kitchen islands is that you can configure them out of any base cabinets to create the perfect size and design for your kitchen.

The minimum space between the island and the nearest counter/appliance should be 3 feet. They are commonly built at the same height as the main counters and stools can be used for seating if you choose to have an overhang on your island. Alternatively the island can be built at two levels, one at counter height (36” after counter top is added) and one at bar height (42” after counter top is added). Then, bar height stools can be added to the taller side if you’d like. Islands can be used for stoves, sinks & dishwashers, or just work and prep space with extra seating if desired. They are a great and functional addition to all kitchen designs!
L-Shaped Kitchen

The L-Shaped Kitchen is the most popular kitchen design. It consists of two adjoining walls with countertops that form an L. The great thing about this design is that it can be used in both small and large kitchens. The L-shaped kitchen gives you the possibility of having a center island depending on the space available (you want to have at least 3 feet of space around all sides of the island for proper clearance and walking space). In general, this design will have 2 or 3 appliances on one wall. Commonly, the refrigerator will be at one end, the range or cook-top at the other end, and the sink located somewhere in the middle. If adding an island, many times, an appliance can be located here as well. The L-shape provides good traffic flow, will create more space and make your kitchen a more efficient work area!
Double L-Shaped Kitchen

This kitchen design is reserved for large areas and has plenty of cabinet and counter space. This design is more common when there are two cooks because it is essentially two kitchens in one. Because this type of kitchen design can get quite busy, to avoid traffic flow problems, create two separate working areas on each L of the kitchen so that work flow does not get interrupted by human traffic. Using kitchen cabinets to design a double-L kitchen will give you plenty of space to work very efficiently in your kitchen!
U-Shaped Kitchen

The U-Shaped Kitchen has three walls instead of two and is used in larger kitchen designs. Typically (but not always), the sink is located in the middle wall section and the refrigerator and range or cook-top are located on the side walls opposite each other. This design has ample counter top space and provides three walls for cabinets and appliances, creating a very efficient work triangle. Because of the enclosed layout, the U shape design can make a kitchen look darker. Using skylights, large windows, lots of under-cabinet task lighting and light colors will help keep the kitchen bright with sufficient lighting. A kitchen large enough to accommodate a U-Shaped design is a great and efficient option for the household chef!
G-Shaped Kitchen

The G-Shaped kitchen design is becoming very popular with larger kitchen areas and it provides a fourth wall to use. The basic layout is the same as the U-Shaped design with another run of cabinets added in (commonly a peninsula island). This design is ideal if there is more than one cook in the house. The fourth wall/run of cabinets provides additional storage and counter space. This layout gives the capability of having two sinks and perhaps two cook-tops or ranges. There could be two working triangles - one for sink, cook top or range and refrigerator and a second working triangle with another sink, built-in grill and cook-top (or whatever appliances are being installed). It allows two cooks to do different things at the same time and entertain large groups of people. Adding a long island in the middle of the kitchen is a great way to fill that space and provide the maximum amount of cabinet and work space!
Single Wall Kitchen

If there isn't much space, there may only be room for a Single Wall kitchen. No problem! Just be sure the sink is placed between the refrigerator and the stove. Another useful tip is to locate the refrigerator so that the refrigerator door (assuming a 1-door refrigerator) opens away from the kitchen sink. That way, it ensures the counter and storage space isn't blocked at any time. This is a very common arrangement for small kitchens in narrow spaces. It keeps everything scaled down, while at the same time, providing storage and work space, making the most out of a minimal area!
A Galley kitchen design is more common in apartments or in homes where space is limited and is often called the corridor style. The cabinets and the appliances can be located on opposite walls for better work flow. Place the range or cook-top on one side of the kitchen along one wall and the refrigerator and sink on the opposite wall. To eliminate traffic issues in this type of kitchen design, one entry is often closed off. This type of layout is typically only used when there is one cook as two can present traffic problems when working together. If both exits/entry points are being maintained, place the refrigerator near the end of the galley kitchen for easy access, this way, guests can access the refrigerator without interfering with the person who is cooking. Installing tall kitchen cabinets that go all the way to the ceiling is a great way to get extra storage in this kitchen design and really maximizes space without creating a cramped layout!
Here are all the things to consider when putting together your time-line:

- **Measurements and Initial Kitchen Design/Layout** – Once you begin working with one of our knowledgeable designers, the design process can take as little as 24-48 hours depending on how much you have decided about what you want your new kitchen to look like and how many changes you make to your design.

- **Ordering Your Cabinets** – Depending on the finish and style, your order will normally ship out within 2-10 weeks (see each style’s page on the WillowLaneCabinetry.com for more specific time frames). Once shipped, orders will normally take 2-7 business days to arrive at your home, depending on where you live and the shipping company. Remember to keep in mind that orders can be delayed due to out of stock items, busier times of the year like holidays, weather related shipping delays, etc…

- **Demo and Structural Changes** – take into account the time it will take to demo your kitchen and if any structural changes will be necessary (moving walls, adding walls, outlets for appliances that may be moving, light fixtures, plumbing, etc…)

- **Painting** – you will save a lot of time by painting when your kitchen is gutted, before the cabinets are installed and the outlets are put back on. You won’t have any obstacles to work around and any touch up that’s needed after installation can be done at that time. Painting shouldn’t take more than a few days.

- **Flooring** – if you are replacing your flooring, it can be done before or after the cabinets are installed. The benefit of installing them before is that you don’t have to worry about cutting around the cabinets and can install wall-to-wall. However that also means there will be sections of the flooring (where cabinets will be sitting on) that you pay for, but will never see. A benefit to installing the flooring after the cabinets is that you don’t need to be careful not to scratch or dent the new flooring during the cabinet install. However, if installing the flooring before the cabinets are installed, be sure they remain protected during the rest of the remodel. The flooring should be able to be installed in 1-2 days.

- **Cabinet Installation** – The installation process can usually be competed in 2-4 days. A lot will depend on if you’re hiring a pro for the install, how large your kitchen is and how many accessories or decorative elements your kitchen has (decorative corbels, hoods, light rail and/or crown moldings, glass doors, etc…).

- **Appliances** – As long as all hook-ups are ready to go and the appliances are all on-hand, they should be able to be installed in 1 day.

- **Lighting** – Depending on how well prepped your space is to install lighting (recessed, over the island, under the cabinet, etc…), this should take about 1-2 days.

- **Countertops** – This shouldn’t take more than 1 day, but you can always allow 2 days just in case there are any errors or unforeseen delays (assuming they’ve already been purchased and templated to your new base cabinets).

- **Backsplash** – Should be able to be completed in 1 day.

- **Finishing Touches** – Final elements like installing crown molding, light rail molding, decorative doors/panels, paint/touch-ups and other decorative elements typically take 2-4 days depending on the extent of work and size of the kitchen.
There are a ton of ways to save money and still get the kitchen of your dreams:

**Where To Purchase** – Purchasing your cabinets and appliances online can save you thousands! Do your research about each company before you purchase.

**Kitchen Cabinets** – Purchasing cabinets online can be a huge money saver!

**Doing Some Of The Work Yourself** – There are plenty of tutorials online for things you are able to do yourself:

- Demolition
- Painting walls
- Installing your backsplash
- Installing/resurfacing your new floors

Check the tutorials before you decide if you are comfortable with that task. You can save thousands of dollars by completing projects yourself instead of hiring outside contractors to do it for you.

**Don't Move Your Appliances** – Unless absolutely necessary, do not move your appliances. Plumbing and electrical relocation costs can become very expensive.

**Paint Your Appliances** – If your appliances are in great working condition but could use a face-lift, consider trying appliance paint before purchasing brand new appliances. It’s easy to remove the door to your appliance, bring it outside or to the garage for a quick spray and then re-attach it after it dries. You'd be surprised what a drastic change it can make in your kitchen. There is even a stainless steel appliance spray!

**Sales! Sales! Sales!** – Look for sales on everything! Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales are always huge for kitchen cabinets and appliances!

**Look for Free or Discounted Services and Products** – A lot of online cabinet retailers will offer free professional kitchen design services. You can also check websites like Craigslist for free or discounted appliances, lighting, or flooring.

**Countertops** – There are a lot of options for countertops. Do your research before you make up your mind. Stone, wood, concrete, and laminate countertops are great choices!

**Floors** – Resurface your floors instead of replacing them.

**Don't be Afraid to Ask for Help!** – Whether you’re asking friends or relatives for help with work or simply posting questions on online forums – don’t be afraid to ask for help, it will save you a lot of money.
Seven Things To Know About Cabinets Before You Purchase

WILLOW LANE CABINETRY

WILLOW LANE CABINETRY BUYER’S GUIDE
#1 Materials

**Plywood** - an all wood product made up of several layers of wood with the grain direction running at different angles with respect to each other. This orientation gives plywood greater strength and stability in comparison to solid wood. It reduces the tendency of wood to split when nailed at the edges and reduces expansion and shrinkage, providing improved dimensional stability.

**Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF) and High Density Fiberboard (HDF)** - a wood-based product that's produced by the combination of very small wood fibers and a glue, resin or similar bonding agent. MDF and HDF can be more easily shaped than products like particle board due to the consistency of the material formed by the small fibers. They can be used for shelves, doors (typically painted or covered with melamine) and other cabinet parts. It is very dense, strong, durable and resists warping. It is commonly seen in the center panels of recessed cabinet door styles (like a Shaker door) to prevent warping and cracking of the center panel during the wood’s natural expansion and contraction throughout the year. HDF is more dense that MDF making it stronger but both are very good options for door and drawer fronts for certain types of door styles and paints (as mentioned above).

**Wood Veneer** – thin layers of wood applied to plywood or MDF or HDF before it's treated with stain. Veneers can be used on the sides of exposed cabinets (for example, on the end of a run of cabinets) and on the interior surfaces of cabinet boxes.

**Melamine** - a durable plastic, similar to laminate that can be applied to certain areas of cabinets. It is easy to clean and resists stains, chipping and fading.
#2 Construction

**Framed** - a cabinet design that uses a ‘face-frame’ which is typically a wood frame attached to the front edges of the cabinet box (where the door gets hinged to).

**Frameless** - a cabinet design that does not use a frame on the front outside edges of the cabinet box. The front of the cabinet box is formed by the edges of the top, bottom and side panels of the cabinet box. The cabinet door typically covers these edges when closed.
#3 Cabinet Features and Specifications

**Face frames & Doors/Drawer Fronts** – Higher quality cabinets will have solid wood face frames, door and drawer fronts. The exception is for recessed panel doors/drawer fronts which will commonly use MDF or HDF which prevent warping and cracking of the panel when the wood expands and contracts.

**Cabinet Box** – Higher quality cabinets will have 1/2”-3/4” thick plywood boxes and a full back.

**Drawers** – Drawers with solid wood sides will be found in higher quality cabinetry. Dovetail drawer joints and plywood or hardwood bottoms also indicate a high quality construction.

**Glides (Drawer Hardware)** – High quality cabinets will feature full extension drawers which provide easy access to the rear of the drawer. Upgrades like soft close drawer glides which prevent the drawers from slamming shut are sometimes found as a standard feature.
#4 Standard Cabinet Sizes and Descriptions

- Base cabinets will sit on the floor and support the counter top. They are usually 34 1/2” high and 24” deep. Typical base cabinets can either have 1-2 drawers on top with 1-2 doors on bottom, full height doors and no drawers, or multiple (2-4) stacked drawers and no drawers. Other base cabinets include sink bases which normally have faux drawer fronts and no shelves to allow for the sink and plumbing installation. Corner base cabinets can be shaped to fit in a corner and have rotating shelves (lazy susan shelves) which provide easy access to the contents. Blind bases (rectangular shaped cabinets with access from only one side) can also be used in corners where there isn’t enough space to fit an angled corner cabinet. Wall cabinets hang on the wall and are usually 12” deep. Standard heights are 12”, 15”, 18”, 30”, 36” and 42”. Wall cabinets shorter than 30” are considered bridge cabinets and are commonly used above a microwave, refrigerator or sink where there is no window above. The bottom of the wall cabinets are typically hung 54” from the floor which leaves 18” of space from the top of the counter to the bottom of the wall cabinets.

- Pantry & Oven Cabinets will normally be found in 84”, 90” and 96” heights. Widths will vary but can commonly be found in anywhere from 15” to 33” wide, depending on the cabinet line.
#5 Door Style & Design

**Standard/Partial/Half Overlay** - A cabinet design whereby the cabinet door or drawer front partially overlaps the face frame. When the drawers/doors are closed, more than ¼ inch of the face frame remains visible.

**Full Overlay** - A cabinet design whereby the cabinet door or drawer front covers the entire face frame so that only the cabinet door is seen with no part of the face frame visible. A cabinet is also considered full-overlay when the reveal is less than ¼ inch.

**Slab** - A flat door panel with no design, moldings, recessed or raised areas. Commonly gives a more contemporary appearance.

**Recessed Panel or Shaker** - Door style where the center panel is inset or recessed. A common example is a Shaker door style.

**Raised Panel** - Doors that have slightly raised center panels.

**Arch/Cathedral** - Wall cabinet door panels will have an exaggerated arch while the base cabinets are usually square.
#6 Wood Types

- **Birch** - One of the strongest cabinet hardwoods with a distinct, moderate grain pattern that ranges from straight to wavy or curly. The predominant sapwood color is white to creamy yellow while the heartwood varies in color from medium or dark brown to reddish brown.

- **Maple** - A strong wood that is mostly off-white in its raw state. Hard maple is somewhat uniform in appearance, making it ideal for smooth, clean looks. It is usually straight-grained but can be wavy or even curly. Hard maple contains light hues of yellow-brown and pink and occasionally light tan or reddish-tinged streaks that will darken with stain. Burling, bird’s eye markings and grain variations may also be inherent in maple cabinets. Maple is a popular selection for a more even-toned wood species. You can even mix finishes and wood species to create a more eclectic room.

- **Oak** - A prominent, open grain that ranges in color from white, to yellow, to reddish brown. Sometimes streaked with green, yellow or black mineral deposits, red oak’s strong grain often varies from closely knit to a distinctive, sweeping arch pattern. Its timeless beauty blends with many different designs.

- **Hickory** - A strong, open grained wood known for its flowing grain pattern and dramatic variation in color—a “wood lover’s wood”. It’s not uncommon to see doors or parts of doors that range in color from light to a deep brown when finished in a light or natural stain. Darker stains will mildly tone these color variations while knots and mineral streaks can also be evident in the finish. End grain is open and will often telegraph the finish. These characteristics are what make each Hickory cabinet and kitchen unique, while crossing a variety of designs.

- **Cherry** - An elegant, multi-colored hardwood, which may contain small knots and pin holes. Natural or light stains accent these color variations making a distinctive statement in a full kitchen. Like a good wine, Cherry wood will naturally darken or “mellow” with age and will look richer over time. Exposure to natural light will hasten this process, which wood lovers consider a natural benefit to owning solid cherry cabinetry.

- **Bamboo** - Bamboo is incredibly strong but lightweight. It is also very versatile and can be used for decorative woodwork or cabinets.
#7 Finishes

- **Wood Stains** – Wood finishes will range from light (or natural) to very dark and will vary in appearance depending on the wood it’s being applied to. The natural characteristics and beauty of the wood will be brought out through the staining process.

- **Paint** – Common paint options are white, off white and black. Some cabinetry will provide more colors such as reds, blues, yellows and greens. Unlike wood stain, painted cabinets will have an even look which will normally not show the graining or characteristics of the wood.

- **Glaze** – When thin layers of color are added to make wood more shiny and glossy or for two-toned contrast. Glazes will add richness and texture to cabinets and create highlights in corners and recessed areas of the doors and drawers.

- **Distressing** – Gives the cabinetry a rustic look with added imperfections such as dents, wormholes and chisel marks.
Tips For Keeping Your New Kitchen Cabinets Looking Beautiful!

WILLOW LANE CABINETRY

WILLOW LANE CABINETRY BUYER'S GUIDE
**Dryer is Better** - Keep cabinet surfaces dry and at a consistent temperature – drastic/quick temperature changes and excessive moisture can be harmful to the finish/paint and overall cabinet stability.

**Dust Removal** - For dust removal, simply use a soft, lint-free cotton cloth to wipe down the cabinet surfaces.

**Basic Cleaning** - For a basic cleaning, use a soft, lint-free cotton cloth dampened with a mild detergent or soap (make sure it’s ok for use on wood products), and warm water, then dry surfaces immediately. Never leave a cloth moistened with cleaners on a cabinet surface for any length of time.

**Blot don’t wipe** - For better results, use a blotting action instead of a wiping motion when cleaning.

**Don’t Be Harsh!** – Avoid using a dish cloth or sponge since harsh detergent residues may harm finishes/paints. Stay away from ammonia-based cleaners and soaps with dye and never use scouring pads, steel wool, wire brushes or powdered cleaners. Don’t allow oven cleaner to touch any part of the cabinet. Avoid sliding objects across the cabinet surface and be careful with knives and other sharp objects that can damage the cabinets.

**If In Doubt, Don’t Use It** – If you’re not sure of a cleaner’s suitability, don’t use it.

**Wipe Spills Quickly** – Food spills and grease will come off more easily if they are removed quickly. Wipe up spills and water spots immediately with a lint-free cotton cloth so moisture is not absorbed into the cabinetry.

**Watch Out For Print** – Don’t leave printed materials (newspapers, magazines, etc...) on the cabinet surface. The printing ink can bleed into the cabinet finish.

**Avoid Moisture & Heat** – Don’t drape wet or damp dish towels over doors of base cabinets, attach towel racks to the interior of cabinet doors and be sure to use trays under potted plants to catch excess water. Try not to place small kitchen appliances where the heat or steam is directed onto cabinet surfaces and always protect wood surfaces by using trivets/pads under hot items.

**Glass Care** – Use a household glass cleaner with a soft, clean cloth. Spray the cleaner on the cloth rather than the glass itself and try to avoid excess cleaner running into the cabinet joints and grooves.

**Cleaning, Caring For and Maintaining Thermofoil Cabinets:**
A damp cloth is usually all that will be needed however if it does not sufficiently clean an area, a non-detergent, nonabrasive household cleaner (such as Murphy’s Oil Soap) is recommended. Apply solvents to a clean cloth and never directly to the cabinet surface. Never leave a cloth moistened with solvents on a cabinet surface for any length of time. Thermofoil cabinets can be cleaned with most nonabrasive household cleaners. However, cleaners containing acetone, acetate or ethyl alcohol should never be used. Harsh solvents and/or abrasives such as turpentine should also be avoided. If ammonia cleaners are being used, they should be diluted. Waxes may lead to discoloration and are not recommended.

**Avoid Excessive Heat:**
Thermofoil cabinets are not heat-resistant so to prevent damage to the cabinets, heat shields must be installed between cabinets and major appliances (dishwashers, ranges, etc...) to help deflect excessive heat. Many appliances already come with built-in shields but they can also be purchased online or at local hardware stores.

Self-cleaning appliances generate intense heat during a cleaning cycle. Since the integrity of the appliance seal or gasket may be compromised during installation or with age, it is recommended to remove doors and/or drawers from cabinets next to or directly above an appliance during a cleaning cycle. This will help prevent possible damage to the finish or surface of these cabinets.
Talk to Us:
Speak to a live person at: 877-717-3030
Monday-Saturday 9am - 5pm Eastern Time
(Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Day)

Email us at:
info@willowlanecabinetry.com
24 hours a day, 7 Days a week (Including Holidays!)