

A Comparison:

Factory Custom vs. Local Custom Cabinetry

DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE

Most people incorrectly assume that “custom” cabinets means they are better made than factory custom – nothing could be further than the truth.

Because factory custom cabinetry companies warranty their products, they use high quality materials and construction methods. This makes a huge difference in the overall quality, performance, and value of your cabinetry.

FINISH, FINISH, FINISH

FACTORY

Finishes are applied in designated finish areas to keep dust and other particulates from invading the surface of your cabinetry. Drying lines versus air dried assist in the curing of the stains and paints.

Finishes involve multiple steps with the highest quality conversion varnish topcoats creating a smooth and durable finish on the cabinetry.

Humidity is controlled for proper moisture content in the air and wood.

LOCAL SHOP

A typical shop either finishes in their shop or at the jobsite which is exposed to dust and other particulates in the air.

Shops use less sophisticated sprayers and do not maintain a rigid maintenance schedule.

To be compliant with California air guidelines local shops are relegated to using water-based polyurethane finishes which do not wear as well on cabinetry.

MATERIALS & QUALITY

FACTORY

Like the construction methods, factories use the finest quality plywood, panels and high grade veneers on their cabinetry. Particleboard and MDF are also extremely durable and most shops do not take advantage of this.

Factories use the finest materials to manufacture their own doors in any wood and finish you want.

Wood is measured for moisture content and is monitored throughout the production process. This is critical for inset cabinetry where tolerances are exact.

LOCAL SHOP

Shops use more multipurpose materials for their cabinetry which are often lower grade because they cannot buy enough for specific purposes to be profitable.

In most cases shops buy their doors from suppliers and put on their boxes.

On painted products, a lot of shops paint on birch veneer plywood (instead of maple) which causes a wavy or uneven surface.

Most local shops do not offer inset because they cannot control the moisture content so they tend to undersize doors which results in a lower quality look in their cabinetry.

WARRANTIES

FACTORY

All of our suppliers have been in business for 50 years or more and offer warranties on their products.

State of the art computer equipment allows for consistent color control. A replacement door, if needed, will be an exact match with your cabinetry.

LOCAL SHOP

What warranty does the shop have (especially on the finish) and how long have they been in business? Many shops that were here yesterday are gone today. They either go out of business or retire.

Local shops do not have the technology to produce the same finish matches.

GOING “GREEN”

FACTORY

All of our cabinetry companies have documented policies with reducing waste, recycling waste and manufacturing by-products conserving energy and using recycled or rapidly renewable materials in products and processes.

All suppliers meet or exceed KCMA regulations and are CARB 1 compliant (California Air Resource Board).

LOCAL SHOP

Most local shops do not have such strict policies in place or have the ability to maintain and qualify for green certifications



DESIGN SERVICES GILMANS

We offer experienced kitchen designers who have done hundreds of kitchens. Our showrooms are filled with displays, samples and brochures to help you through the design process.

LOCAL SHOP

Local shops have very limited experience and training in design.

Shops typically do not have an array of displays of cabinetry or samples to look at.