

CHOOSING MATERIALS AND HARDWARE

Cabinetry is one of the most important design choices in any space—it shapes the room’s look, supports everyday use, and reflects your personal style. Two critical decisions in your cabinet design process are **material** and **hardware**. Though small in size, these choices make a large difference in both appearance and function.

Cabinet Materials

Cabinet materials do more than just look good—they define texture, tone, and long-term durability. Some people are drawn to the warmth and natural grain of hardwoods like oak, maple, or hickory, which showcase unique patterns, color variations, and organic character. Others prefer more consistent finishes found in options like laminates or paints, which offer consistent, sleek visuals and even added resistance to moisture and warping.

Each material and finish offers its own strengths and there is never a “correct” choice. We recommend starting with at least one option that appeals to you—then working with a designer to weigh performance, price, personal taste, and determine what the best choice is for you. What looks beautiful in a sample might respond differently to light, wear, or your home’s environment. If at all possible, taking samples and bringing them to your space will help you make the best choice, and as always, a designer can help you navigate such nuances with ease.

Cabinet Hardware

Once your cabinet material is set, hardware becomes a finishing touch. These knobs and pulls may seem like minor details, but they influence both the feel and usability of your cabinets.

Are you going for modern minimalism or a classic, timeless look? Hardware finishes and shapes can completely transform a room’s mood. Knobs, usually installed with a single screw, work well for doors, while pulls—which cover a greater surface—are often chosen for drawers. Some homeowners mix and match styles across upper and lower cabinets to achieve added dimension.

Don’t forget about placement. Hardware is not just about aesthetics—it also needs to be functional and comfortable to use in your daily life. Once holes are drilled, there’s not an easy fix, so it’s worth taking the time to fully test and visualize your options before making a final decision.

As with cabinet materials, a designer can help you coordinate hardware choices with the rest of your space, ensuring everything works together both visually and practically.