



Schooner Bay Builders Reveals Coastal Kitchen Material Failures in Cape Coral Remodel Projects

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Standard particleboard cabinet boxes swell and warp within a few seasons inside Cape Coral kitchens, and conventional hinges and drawer hardware corrode noticeably faster on canal-front and waterfront homes than on comparable inland properties. That pattern, drawn from years of local project records, points to a recurring material problem for coastal homeowners.

Schooner Bay Builders, a custom home and remodeling company based in Southwest Florida, identified the trend after reviewing its own project history across Cape Coral. According to the company, the failures cluster around two conditions common to the area: sustained high humidity and salt air carried inland from canals and open water. The findings surface most often when homeowners request repairs or replacements on kitchens installed only a few seasons earlier.

The company reports that particleboard and low-grade laminate cores absorb ambient moisture and expand, causing cabinet doors to misalign and edges to peel. On properties closest to the water, the effect on metal

components proves even more pronounced. Standard hinges, slides, pulls, and fasteners show corrosion earlier than the same parts installed at homes farther from the shoreline, where salt exposure is lower.

The distinction matters when selecting coastal kitchen materials, because the same products that perform adequately in drier climates fail prematurely near the water. Schooner Bay Builders notes that its project records show marine-grade plywood boxes, moisture-resistant laminates, and sealed solid wood holding up far longer than conventional alternatives. On the hardware side, corrosion-resistant finishes outlast standard metal components exposed to salt air.

"The core issue with coastal kitchen materials is that humidity and salt attack them from two directions at once," said Dustin Gardner, project manager at Schooner Bay Builders. "Particleboard pulls moisture out of the air and swells from the inside, while salt settles on hinges and fasteners and eats the finish from the outside. Neither problem shows up on day one, which is why homeowners are often surprised when a kitchen starts failing after only a couple of seasons."

Gardner added that the location of a home within Cape Coral shapes how quickly these problems appear. Waterfront and canal-front kitchens face heavier salt loads than homes set back from the water, and the company's records reflect that difference in the timing and severity of hardware corrosion.

The company has documented the material patterns behind its kitchen remodel materials Cape Coral observations and published guidance for homeowners weighing a Kitchen Remodel in Cape Coral. Additional detail on selecting coastal kitchen materials is available through the company's coastal material selection guide.

Schooner Bay Builders continues to track how different materials perform across the region, with the aim of helping homeowners understand why standard products underperform in a coastal environment.

Schooner Bay builders is a custom home builder and remodeling company serving Southwest Florida. The company provides custom home construction and remodeling services, working with homeowners from initial design through final construction. Schooner Bay Builders is known for its emphasis on open communication and transparency throughout each project. The company is not a subsidiary or controlled affiliate of Schooner Bay Realty, LLC.

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Schooner Bay Builders is a Cape Coral, FL builder specializing in kitchen remodeling, bath remodeling, and new home construction across Southwest Florida, with a focus on trusted service, upgraded features, and lasting value.

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