



Affordable Cabinets of Cape Cod Reveals Common Misconceptions About Kitchen Cabinet Materials in High Humidity Coastal Environments

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Affordable Cabinets of Cape Cod has published new consumer guidance addressing widespread misconceptions about which kitchen cabinet materials actually hold up in coastal, high-humidity environments. The timing coincides with the seasonal rise in humidity and the ongoing spring and summer kitchen renovation season on Cape Cod.

Many homeowners in coastal climates assume that any painted or finished cabinet will perform equally well near the ocean, and that visible wear only becomes a concern years down the line. However, cabinet performance in humid, salt-air environments depends heavily on box construction, finish application method, and hardware grade, not on appearance alone at the time of installation.

The guidance highlights critical differences between cabinet materials that homeowners often overlook during the selection process. Plywood cabinet boxes, for instance, demonstrate significantly better resistance to

moisture-related expansion and contraction compared to lower-grade particleboard alternatives. Similarly, factory-applied finishes tend to provide more consistent protection against salt air than site-applied finishes, while corrosion-resistant hardware maintains its functionality far longer than standard steel hardware in coastal conditions.

"Homeowners are often surprised to learn that two cabinets that look identical in a showroom can perform completely differently after just one humid summer near the coast," said Dennis McCartney, lead designer and owner at Affordable Cabinets of Cape Cod. "The difference comes down to materials and construction methods that aren't always visible to the naked eye. A cabinet with a plywood box and properly sealed finish will maintain its shape and appearance for years, while particleboard alternatives may start showing signs of swelling or deterioration within the first season."

Older homes on Cape Cod face additional challenges due to limited ventilation systems that weren't designed for modern living patterns. These conditions can accelerate cabinet deterioration, making material selection even more critical for long-term performance. Common signs of inadequate materials include swelling cabinet doors during humid months, corroding hardware despite regular cleaning, and faster wear on painted surfaces than expected.

The guidance emphasizes that selecting appropriate kitchen cabinets for high humidity environments requires understanding how different materials respond to moisture and salt exposure over time. Moisture-resistant MDF and laminate surfaces represent middle-ground options between premium plywood construction and basic particleboard, each offering different levels of protection and longevity.

Proper installation techniques also play a crucial role in cabinet performance. Ensuring adequate spacing for air circulation, using appropriate sealants, and installing proper ventilation can significantly extend cabinet lifespan regardless of the materials selected. Regular maintenance, including wiping surfaces to remove salt residue and running ventilation fans during cooking, helps preserve cabinets in coastal environments.

The complete cabinet material guide provides detailed comparisons of various construction materials and their expected performance in coastal conditions.

Affordable Cabinets of Cape Cod specializes in designing and installing kitchen cabinets suited for Cape Cod's unique coastal climate. The company has been serving the Cape Cod community since 2021, focusing on solutions that address the specific challenges of humidity, salt air, and the renovation constraints of older coastal homes.

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Affordable Cabinets of Cape Cod LLC

Locally owned Cape Cod cabinet company specializing in affordable, custom-fit kitchen and bath cabinetry with fast turnaround times, lifetime-warranty cabinets, in-home design consultations, and full-service installation for Cape Cod homeowners.

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