

Information Clients Need When Shopping for Countertops

These are the topics and decisions that need to be made by the Client and then all answers provided to all countertop quote providers:

Edge Design

- **Choose a profile**
 - See available options for each material
- **Choose a visual thickness**
 - Some manufacturers can thicken the edge to have the appearance of thicker countertops
- **Return**
 - Will the edge return on itself when overlapping a cabinetry end panel (i.e. refrigerator surround) or die into the end panel as it would a typical wall
 - This should be discussed with the kitchen designer or Architect

Backsplash Options

- **Separate (typical)**
 - A separate piece of material installed on-site, so the transition from the countertop to the backsplash is a 90 degree angle that is then caulked
- **Integral**
 - The countertop and backsplash are continuous and provide a rounded cove at that transition point
 - Usually additional fees apply
 - **Back**
 - Integral options for back splash are typical for many cultured marble and solid surface manufacturers with no additional charges
 - **Sides**
 - Sides are typically still separate pieces installed on-site for installation purposes
 - These sides can be integral for additional fees if installation is possible
- **End Panels**
 - The backsplash can either butt into cabinetry end panels (i.e. refrigerator surround) or return over the panel and end near the nose of the countertop as it would along a typical wall.
 - This needs to be discussed before installation as it would add to the material and produces additional questions on the appearance (see integral sides)

Bowl Options

- **Integrated Bowl**
 - Fabricated of the same material as the countertop and integrated as part of the countertop (smooth transition)
 - **Pros**
 - Seamless transition
 - Water can be pushed cleanly from countertop into bowl
 - Can be different color and/or finish than countertop
 - **Cons**
 - Can not be different material than countertop
- **Under-mount bowl**
 - Bowl mounted under countertop and bowl cut-out given clean/finished edge
 - **Pros**
 - Water can be pushed cleanly from countertop into bowl
 - Bowl can be different material and color than countertop
 - **Cons**
 - Caulked seam, though relatively hidden below countertop edge - bothers some clients

- **Drop-in bowl**
 - Bowl dropped in a cut-out made in countertop and a lip resting on top of the counter
 - Typical, especially in laminate countertop conditions
 - **Pros**
 - Bowl can be different material and color than countertop
 - **Cons**
 - Caulked seam
 - Water can not be pushed cleanly from countertop into bowl
- **Vessel Bowl**
 - Complete bowl resting on top of or partially in the countertop
 - **Pros**
 - Bowl can be different material and color than countertop
 - Visibly more countertop space
 - Many styles available
 - **Cons**
 - Water can not be pushed cleanly from countertop to bowl
 - Caulked seam
 - Specialty faucet needed usually taller in height
 - Issues arise with mirror selection
 - Thickness
 - Sometimes space between faucet and wall is too tight
 - Height
 - Sometimes mirror has to be hung higher than typical
 - Sometimes deeper counter is required

Faucet Options

- **Spread dimensions**
 - See Manufacturer specifications for installation
 - Dimensions between holes and number of holes
 - Number of holes
 - Hot and cold separate holes?
 - Spray nozzle included?
 - Typically in Kitchen condition and not in Bathroom
 - Soap dispenser included?
 - Typically in Kitchen condition and not in Bathroom

Material Finish

- **See Manufacturer's options**
 - Options will differ between materials
- **Note:**
 - For Cultured Marble, Corian, and other Solid Surface countertops -
 - Most clients prefer the "honed" look over "glossy" – make sure you know what you prefer by seeing them both before deciding

Appliances

- **See Manufacturer's specifications**
 - You will need to supply the appliance specifications to all parties
 - Especially the range specifications
- **Range**
 - The range can come in many styles and sizes; please be aware of what you are ordering and that the countertop company and kitchen designer or Architect is also aware.

- **Slide-in Range**
 - This range requires the countertop and backsplash to continue behind it as there is no “back” to this style.
 - Please note the edge condition/relationship of your chosen unit – this could effect your decision on the countertop edge or require some additional preparation by the countertop manufacturer.
- **Freestanding Range**
 - This range has a built-in control panel or splash guard that lets it slide snug against the wall beyond. There is no need or room for countertop or backsplash to extend behind this style.
 - Please note the edge condition/relationship of your chosen unit – this could effect your decision on the countertop edge or require some additional preparation by the countertop manufacturer.
- **Cook Top**
 - This is a stand-alone range unit – without the oven or warming drawers necessarily included or related. This unit will sit directly on the countertop and will only require a hole cut out. Countertop material will be in-front of and behind the unit in this style. (similar to a typical sink)

NOTE:

You can review your options at any countertop showroom since these terms and conditions are virtually universal.

Construction Manager:**Client:****RED TEXT SHOWING EXAMPLE ANSWERS/DECISIONS****CABINET SELECTION SPECIFICATIONS:****A. Cabinet Type and Style:**

1. **Cabinet Type:** Partial overlay / Maple Painted
2. **Style:** Raised Panel
 - **Doors:** Bubble panel, small detail edge, square door design
 - **Drawers:** [Flat panel or raised panel]
 - a. Smaller / Upper Drawers: Bubble panel, small detail edge, square door design
 - b. Larger / Lower Drawers: Bubble panel, small detail edge, square door design
3. **Sample:** Cabinet maker will construct (2) two door panel samples and paint it with the selected color. One sample will remain with the cabinet maker, and one sample will be send to the client for approval.

Note: Door panel sent to client has been accepted by the client

B. Upper Cabinets Options:

1. **Door Hardware:** Concealed hinges - Yes
(Note: Client was ok with going with concealed hinges vs exposed similar to what she has on her old cabinets)
2. **Interior Finish:** See paint schedule
3. **Shelving:**
 - a. **Number of Shelves**
 - Standard 36 inch height units: Provide (3) three adjustable shelves unless noted otherwise - Yes
 - Units above refrigerators: Provide (1) one adjustable shelf - Yes
 - b. **Paint** – The interior shelving of all shelves shall be painted to match exterior paint selection - Yes
4. **Crown Moulding:** [Above Upper Cabinets]
 - Size: 3 1/4"
 - Mfg: Koetter or Equal
 - Style: 20104-B-C
5. **Light Rail**
 - a. **Provide:** Provide light rail at all upper cabinets - Yes
 - b. **Type or Selection:**
 - Size: 3/4 inch
 - Style: Eased edge
 - Installation: Hold 1/4" back from cabinet rail front edge
 - Detail: Cabinet Company to provide detail
6. **Lazy Susan at Corner Cabinet**
 - a. Upper Cabinets: Yes

C. Base Cabinet Options:**1. Drawer Box Construction**

- Upgrade from standard construction to Dove Tailed Drawer Front – **Yes**

2. Drawer Hardware / Closures:

- Upgrade from standard to Full Extension – **Yes**
- Upgrade to soft close – **No**
- **Alternate:** Provide alternate under mount soft close (See note Below)

Note: Manuf. to check into alternate under mount drawer closures that are not soft closure type. Client does not like full extension hardware and seeing the hardware when the drawer is open. Client does not desire soft close hardware. But client wants to know what the additional cost would be to change to an alternate full extension hardware. If no alternate hardware could be found, than client wants to know the cost difference to go from full extension to soft close hardware.

3. Specialty Feet:

- Perimeter Base Cabinets - **None**
- Island Base Cabinets – **None**
- Specialty Build-out Base Cabinets: **None**

4. Specialty Panels on Appliances

- Refrigerator: **None**
- Dishwasher: **None**
- Other : **None**

5. Sink Base:

- Tilt drawer storage for sponges:** **Yes**
- Farm Sink:** **No**

6. Lazy Susan at Corner Cabinet

- Base Cabinets: **Yes**

D. End Panels and Front Rail Construction:**1. End Panels:**

End panel design options for exposed end panels shall be one of the following unless noted otherwise: a.) Solid flush panel, b.) Applied door panel [similar to cabinet door design], c.) Furniture grade end panels, d.) Glass at end panels, e.) Chicken wire at end panels

- Upper Cabinets:** **Solid flush panel**
- Base Cabinets:** **Solid flush panel**
- Refrigerator Cabinets:** **Solid flush panel**
- Upper Glass Cabinets:** **Glass – End panel design to match front door design**

2. Front Rail Construction:

Front rail construction where front rail meets end panel shall be one of the following unless noted otherwise: a.) Solid flush panel with exposed lip
b.) Furniture with no exposed lip.

- **Upper Cabinets:** **Solid flush panel**
- **Base Cabinets:** **Solid flush panel**
- **Refrigerator Cabinets:** **Solid flush panel**

3. **Notes:**
 - a. Construction of all corners where the front rail meets the side panel shall be furniture grade and flush unless noted otherwise.
 - b. At no time shall the front rail extend over the side of the side rail or end panel unless noted otherwise.
 - c. No attachment of a door panel to the end panel will be accepted unless noted otherwise.

- E. **Painting and Color Selection:**
 1. **Paint / Sample and Approval**
 - a. **Color Selection:** Sherwin Williams 7006 – Extra White
 - b. **Sample:** Cabinet maker will construct (2) two door panel samples and paint it with the selected color. One sample will remain with the cabinet maker, and one sample will be send to the client for approval.
 - c. **Approval:** Color on door sample sent by Taters has been approved.
 2. **Interior Cabinet Paint Schedule:**
 - a. **Upper Cabinets** with doors and shelves – Paint
 - b. **Base Cabinets** with doors and shelves – Paint
 - c. **Refrigerator Cabinets** with doors and shelves - Paint

- F. **Glass at Cabinets**
 1. **Location:** See drawing for location of glass
 2. **Glass Type:** To be determined
 3. **Muttons / Grills:** Yes
 4. **Glass at End Panel:** Yes

- G. **Chicken Wire at Cabinets**
 1. **Location:** See drawing for location of chicken wire
 2. **Type:** To be determined
 3. **Muttons / Grills:** Yes
 4. **Chicken wire at End Panel:** Yes

Construction Manager:

Client:

BATHROOM TITLE: _____

Cabinet Selections:

A. Cabinet Type and Style:

1. **Cabinet Type:**
2. **Style:**
 - **Doors:**
 - **Drawers:** [Flat panel or raised panel] -

B. Door Hardware: - concealed hinges -

C. Interior Finish:

- a. **Color Selection:**

D. Shelving:

- a. **Number of Shelves :**
- b. **Paint** – The interior shelving of all shelves shall be painted to match exterior paint selection -

E. Crown Moulding: [Above Upper/Taller Cabinets]

- Size:
- Mfg:
- Style:

F. Base Cabinet Options:

1. **Drawer Box Construction**
 - Upgrade from standard construction to Dove Tailed Drawer Front :
2. **Drawer Hardware / Closures:**
 - Upgrade from standard to Full Extension :
 - Upgrade to soft close :
 - **Alternate:**
3. **Specialty Feet:**
 - a. Base Cabinets :
 - b. Specialty Build-out Base Cabinets:
5. **Sink Base:**
 - a. Tilt drawer storage for sponges:

G. End Panels:

End panel design options for exposed end panels shall be one of the following unless noted otherwise: a.) Solid flush panel, b.) Applied door panel [similar to cabinet door design], c.) Furniture grade end panels

- a. **Upper Cabinets:**
- b. **Base Cabinets:**
- c. **Linen Closet/Cabinet:**

Countertop Selections:

A. Material Choice:

1. **Finish:**
2. **Edge:**
3. **Backsplash:**
 - Separate or integral :
 - Against wall:
 - Against end panels:
4. **Faucet Spread:** - dimension / number of holes –
5. **Sink/Bowl Style:** - see master countertop info –
 1. Size:
 2. Quantity:

Specialty Selections:

A. Mirror(s):

B. Light Fixture(s):

- Finish:

C. Faucet(s):

- Finish:

D. Racks/Hangers/ HOLDERS/ Bars:

- Finish: