

## General Guide to Our Flat Pack Kitchens



**Kitchen Concepts NSW**

### General Planning and Procedures

If installing your new kitchen as a DIY project, please ensure that all relevant standards are adhered to. To help, listed below are some important considerations.

A minimum of 300mm horizontal clearance from the periphery of electric elements or gas burners should be allowed to ensure heat from the burners or elements does not damage any adjacent vertical components.

A clearance of at least 200mm at the back of a cooktop should be allowed between the periphery of burners or elements on a cooktop and any combustible wall surface or splashback. If a non-combustible surface is used, this distance may be reduced to 50mm.

Do not place combustible rangehood cupboards any closer than 600mm from the top of your electric cooktop or 650mm from the top of a gas cooktop. Always check the manufacturer's specifications as to clearances for any appliance to be installed in the kitchen as manufacturer's requirements may vary from this general advice.

Please remember that it is a requirement that all electrical and plumbing work must be carried out by a licensed Electrician or Plumber.

### Overview

Listed here is a sequence of events that is typical for a new kitchen installation. Depending on your installation, some steps may be omitted or the sequence may be changed slightly.

1. Assemble cabinets without doors to reduce risk of damage to doors.
2. Put base cabinets in place and level.
3. Insert any panels that are between cabinets. Typically fridge panels.
4. Fix base cabinets together and to wall.
5. Install any wire products into cabinets.
6. Fix panels that are required for benchtop sizing. I.e. for overhang.
7. Install benchtop.
8. Install wall cabinets.
9. Cut and attach kickboards.
10. Put doors and handles on.

Painting walls and ceilings and installing flooring in the kitchen is typically done before the installation of the kitchen.

## Base Cabinets

Cabinets are assembled using 40mm particleboard screws. When assembling cabinets, ensure that the appropriate clutch setting on your cordless drill is used to stop the screws being over tightened. Some slight adjustment of the cabinets can be necessary to make the faces align perfectly. This should be done by tapping the panels into alignment using a block and hammer or rubber mallet. This should be done when only one screw on each side is partially inserted.

When assembling base cabinets, start by connecting the back and base together. Then choose a side to fix to the back and base. Next attach the top support and then the remaining side. See Figure 1.

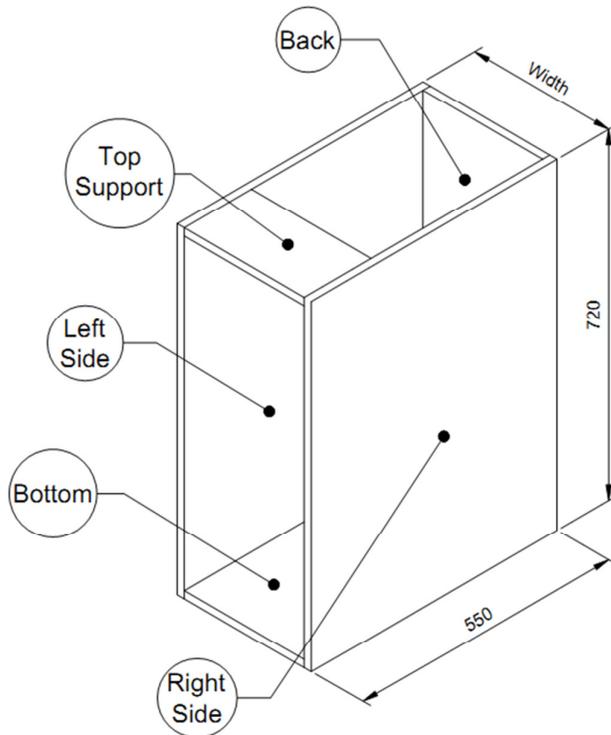


Figure 1. Base Cabinet

When installing base cabinets, it is recommended that they be attached to the walls wherever possible. All pantry cabinets must be attached to the wall to provide adequate stability.

When fitting doors to the corner cabinet, the holes for the second set of hinges in the door should be placed 32mm from the edge of the door. See Attachment.

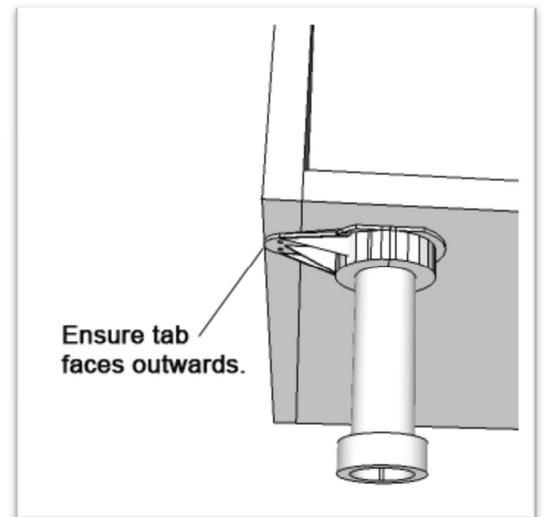
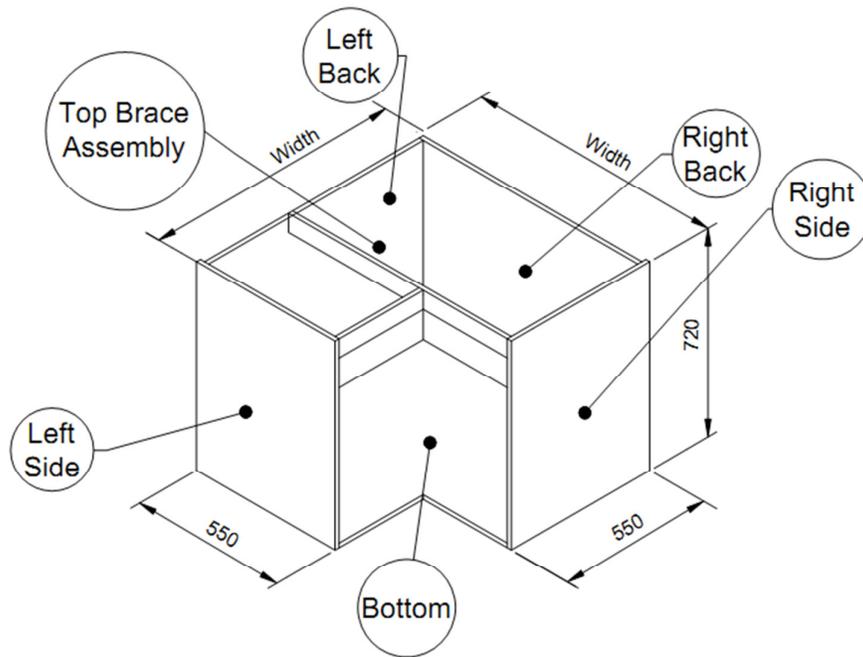


Figure 2. Leg orientation.

Ensure that the bottom shelf in the corner unit is installed during assembly as it cannot be installed after.

When fitting doors to the corner cabinet, the holes for the second set of hinges in the door should be placed 37mm from the edge of the door. See Attachment



The corner cabinet can seem complex before assembly but if this procedure is followed the cabinet should go together relatively easily. First attach the two backs together then attach this to the base. Then attach both sides being careful of overhang at rear of cabinet. Next put the top brace assembly together. Attach the top brace assembly. The top brace is not designed for lifting the cabinet.

When fixing legs to the base cabinets, they must be aligned as shown in Figure 2, otherwise kickboard will not mount correctly. If feet holes are not marked on the bottom of the cabinet, the face of the legs should be 50mm from the face of the cabinet.

Once cabinets have been assembled and put in place, the cabinets need to be leveled and then joined together. To level the cabinets, a spirit level is usually used. To adjust the height of the cabinets, the adjustable feet are used. They have approximately 35mm of adjustment but if more is required, the shaft of the leg can be disconnected from the part of the foot that connects to the cabinet and then reduced in length. To cut the leg, any saw can be used.

When levelling the cabinets, the tallest leg should be 150mm to match the kickboard. The height of the legs should then be reduced as you move around the kitchen. Always start at the lowest point in the room and work out from there. This will ensure that the benchtop is as close to the nominal 900mm in height as possible and make kickboard installation easier.

Once all cabinets have been leveled, they need to be connected together. To join cabinets, clamp the walls of the cabinets together then connect using a 28mm particleboard screw. At least four screws per joint is recommended. Also fix the cabinets to the walls using either 50mm or 75mm wood screws for stud walls or an appropriate masonry fixer for masonry walls. If you have any questions about this, just ask. Fixers for attaching the cabinets to the walls are not included.

## Overhead Cabinets

To install overhead cupboards, they must be sufficiently fixed to the walls using appropriate fixers. See above recommendations. Cabinets must be fixed to each other (as the base cabinets were) and to the wall in multiple locations. When considering the space between the benchtop and overhead cupboards, consider the height of the pantries where applicable, splashback tile size, your own personal preference and the minimum height of rangehoods. Whatever spacing is selected, ensure that the cabinets are level. The benchtop should have been installed level and can be used as a reference.

When attaching multiple fridge cabinets together, a brace should be used across the back for support.

When assembling wall and fridge cabinets, start by connecting the back, top and base together. Then choose a side to fix to the back, top and base. Then attach the remaining side.

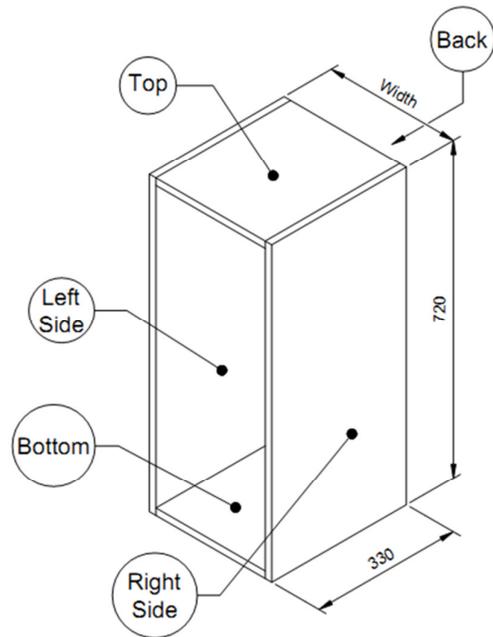


Figure 3. Wall Cabinet

## Pantries

Pantries can be heavy when assembled. When moving them, it is advisable to use two people to make the job easier.

When assembling pantry cabinets start by connecting the back, top and base together. Then choose a side to fix to the back, top and base. Then position and fix the fixed shelf. Then attach the remaining side.

When assembling the corner pantry, assemble it as close as possible to its final location as, once assembled, it is extremely heavy. When assembling the corner pantry, the bottom shelf must be installed during assembly as it is not possible to insert it after assembly.

Take care when standing pantries upright or moving the pantry into position, as the forces applied to the legs during these operations can cause damage to the legs or cabinets if care is not taken.

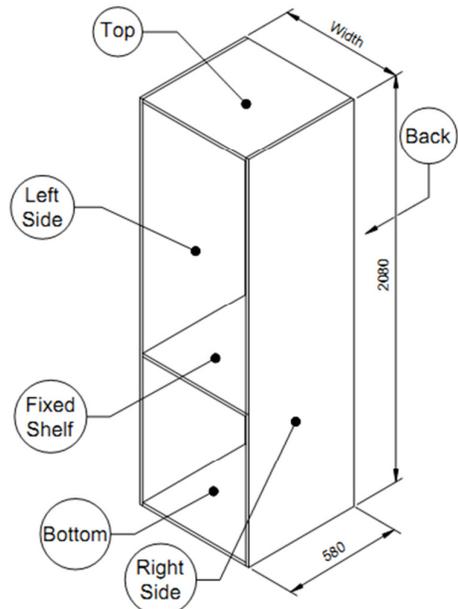


Figure 4. Pantry Cabinet

## Drawer Units

Three small screws per drawer slide are provided and should be used when fitting drawer slides to the drawers. To make the fitting of the drawer slides easier, the drawer slides can be separated as shown in the picture below. This is the only place the drawer slides should be separated. Two small grub or euro screws are provided per slide to connect the slides to the cabinet.

When spacing the drawers in the cabinet, use the sizes of the drawer faces to guide you on the placement of the drawers. Measure the size of the drawer faces being used or refer to the catalogue for sizes. Mark out where each drawer face will be on the face of the cabinet. Then align the drawer boxes into these spaces. This may give irregular spacing between the drawers but the fitting of the faces will remove any irregularities.

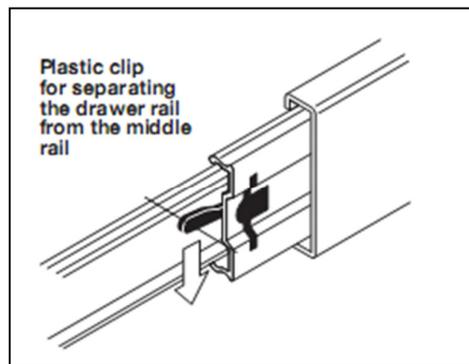


Figure 5. Lock to separate slides.

Some countersunk screw holes in the drawer boxes can occasionally require cleaning out from the manufacturing process to ensure screws countersink properly.

Melamine, Createc and thermolaminated drawer fronts are attached using supplied chipboard screws. Ensure that the screws you use are short enough not to penetrate the outside of the drawer faces. When attaching drawer fronts, start with the bottom drawer front, ensuring that it is lined up with the bottom of the cabinet and adjacent doors. Clamp this first in place and screw through the box into the face. Then attach the other drawer fronts ensuring they line up closely using a 20c coin to give a 2mm space between drawer fronts. The top drawer can be difficult. To make this easier drive screws through drawer so they are protruding about 2mm. Close all the drawers, then line up the top drawer and use your hand to knock the screws onto the back of the face to give the fixing points of the top drawer.

Adjustment of the drawer fronts is obtained through adjustment of the screws holding the drawers to the drawer slides. By adjusting, perfect adjustment of the drawers can be obtained.

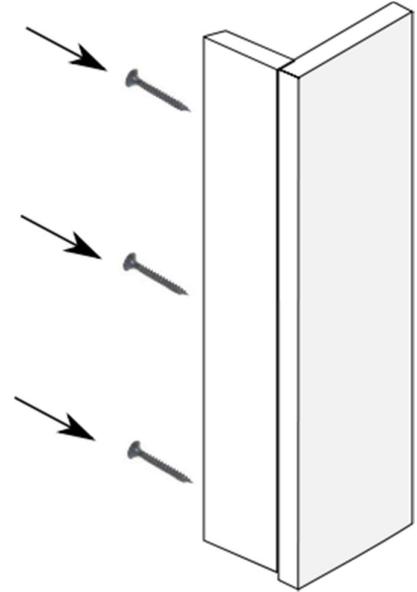
## Side Panels

Side panels typically cover any exposed melamine cabinet surfaces such as the sides of the cabinet or the back. Side panels are usually screwed from the back using an appropriate length chipboard screw. To assist in fixing the panels, a clamp is usually used to locate the panel precisely before permanent fixing. In some cases, it may be necessary to cut or plane the bottom or top of the panel to make it fit precisely or to follow the contour of the floor. This can be done using a plane or circular saw. Please follow the laminate cutting procedure. Typically side panels for base cabinets come all the way to the floor, eliminating the need for

kickboard along the sides of cupboards. This means that the kickboard is simply cut to length to butt up against the inside of the panel.

### Filler Panels

When fitting filler panels to cabinets, use appropriately sized timber blocks. These can be made from scrap timber. If you don't have any scrap timber, let us know and we can supply some. The panels typically are screwed from the back so they sit flush with the doors of the kitchen. See figure. When attaching the panels with screw remember to select the appropriate screw length as not to puncture face of panel. Predrilling these panels is also remember to predrill the screw holes. Panels can also be glued onto the timber blocks or be connected using a simple angle bracket. These are not supplied as standard but are available on request. Once you have constructed the filler then simply line it up with the face of the doors and drawers (typically about 17 or 19mm depending on door thickness) and then attach the panel from inside the adjacent cabinet using screws provided.



Sometimes panels are required to be cut down when fixing between cabinets and a wall, particularly if wall is not plumb. The panels can be cut in much the same way as laminate or can be planed down to match the contour of the wall.

When panels are used with wall cabinets, a carcass white melamine filler can be required to fill any gap on the bottom on the cabinets. Any scrap melamine can be used or ask us to cut you a matching piece. Attach this piece in a similar manner as the face panels.

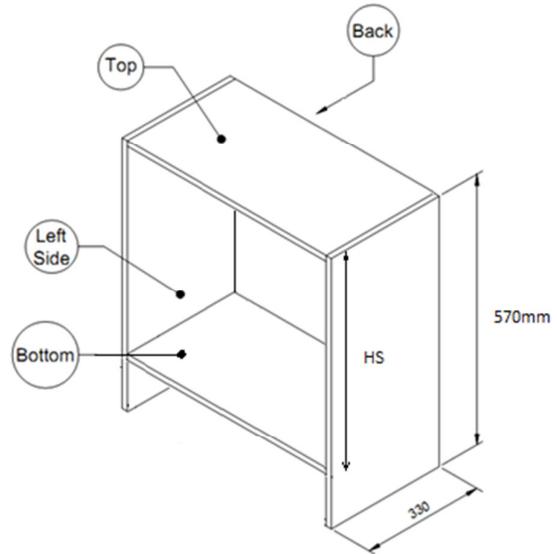
### Under Bench Ovens

Under bench ovens are used in many modern kitchens. When installing a standard 600mm under bench oven, a 123mm cover panel is supplied for below the oven. This panel can be fitted at the top or bottom but it is recommended to be fitted below the oven. This panel is fitted as per the instructions above. Some modern "free-space" ovens are now being manufactured with increased depth. This means that if you have this style of oven, you may need to take some simple steps if you want to have a flush mounted oven. First check the depth of the oven. If the depth is less than 534mm, then install into the oven cabinet as usual however, if the depth of the oven is greater, the rear panel of the oven cabinet should not be installed. Instead, fix the sides of the cabinets to adjacent cabinets and to benchtops. This should now allow installation of increased depth ovens.

## Rangehood Cabinets

There are many styles of under mount rangehoods available. Occasionally modifications may be necessary to rangehood cabinets, but this is uncommon. Please check the height of the rangehood and preferred installation heights to ensure that you will be happy with positioning. Commonly rangehoods are recess mounted or flush mounted with regard to the bottom of cabinets.

Our standard rangehood cabinet is designed differently from other wall cabinets as the bottom shelf does not go all the way to the rear of the cabinet and stops at the back panel of the cabinet. This allows the bottom to fit into the cabinet like an adjustable shelf. This means you can adjust the bottom of the cabinet to suit your type of rangehood quickly and easily. If you want a flush mount rangehood simply deduct the height of the rangehood from the overall height of the wall cabinets (720mm in our case), then measure this distance from the top of the rangehood cabinet to the bottom of the bottom of the cabinet. Then predrill and fix the shelf in at this height.



Height of Shelf (HS) = 720 – Overall Rangehood Height Please see figure.

## Doors

Hinges for cabinet doors can simply be knocked into the pre-drilled hinge holes on the rear of the doors using a rubber mallet or a block of timber and a standard hammer. When knocking in the hinges, they should be aligned carefully and knocked in so the hinge is level and aligned correctly. Holes for handles are 4mm in diameter and can be located where you choose. When deciding on handle placement, consider the handle's location with regard to other handles and any routed patterns in door surfaces.

The standard doors supplied for the corner cabinets are to be fitted in a bi-fold arrangement. Special hinges are provided to accomplish this. These hinges and the locations of four extra holes are shown on a separate page that can be found later in this document.

## Kickboard

There are many kinds of kickboard available. Although there are many kinds of kickboard, essentially the same practice should be followed when cutting and trimming the kickboard to fit. When cutting to length, a circular saw can be used, following the same procedure as for cutting laminate. Alternatively, a drop or cut off saw can be used. As with any material, please make a test cut to ensure a quality cut. When trimming the kickboard to height, a plane or circular saw can be used, depending on the complexity of the trimming required. When using black vinyl kickboard, cut and trim the raw particle board before applying the vinyl. Ensure that the vinyl has a clean dry surface to adhere to. Any excess vinyl should be removed using a knife.

## Benchtops

Once the cabinets are in place and level, place the benchtops on the cabinets to check correct sizing. If any modifications are required, see instructions below. While in place, check that joints line up closely and that there are no gaps that won't be covered. At this stage, mark any cutouts such as the sink and cooktop. If the joints don't line up closely, it may indicate that the cabinets are not level. If there are gaps between the benchtop and the walls, the backs of the benchtops may need a little extra work. See below.

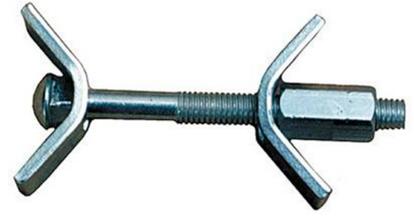


Figure 6. Benchtop Connector

After you have made any modifications to the benchtop and are happy with how it is sitting, it is time to connect any joints using the bench connectors. On corner cabinets, the top brace can obstruct the closest bench clamp. If this happens, a 50-60mm hole needs to be drilled to allow access to the joiner. Before you clamp the benchtop into its final position, it is important to seal this joint using a colour matched silicone. This insures that there will be no water ingress into the joint. To seal the joint spread a **thin** layer of silicone on one side of the joint. Using the bench joiners, then clamp the joint. A thin bead of silicone should be pushed from the joint. This can be removed when dry with a razor blade. If you are worried about this process, mask the joint to reduce the risk of silicone getting onto the benchtop.

When connecting the benchtops to the cabinets, screw through the top brace of the cabinets into the benchtop at the front. A small timber block or angle bracket can be used to fix the back of the benches down but the splashback will also hold the benchtop in place.

When installing benchtops, it is common for the walls not to be square to the benchtops. It is also possible to plane a small amount of benchtop off the back to allow it to sit flush against the wall. Also remember that your splashback will cover small gaps (up to ~10mm depending on thickness of splashback) between the wall and the benchtop.

Always seal between the benchtop and splashback with a flexible gap sealer. This ensures water cannot penetrate the gap between the splashback and the benchtop. Do not use tile grout to fill this gap as it commonly cracks due to expansion and contraction of the surfaces.

To make any cutouts for the sink or cooktop, a jigsaw is used. Laminate blades can be purchased for the jigsaw but a sharp standard blade is generally more than sufficient to cut the benchtops with minimal chipping. A little chipping on these cuts is acceptable as 10-15mm is typically covered by the edge on the sink or cooktop. Always check the cut before starting the main cut. Ensure that a minimum 3mm radius is left in the corners of any internal cut outs to stop stress cracks. I.e. Pre-drill cutouts with a minimum 6mm diameter drill bit before cutting.

When cutting the benchtops to length with a circular saw, the laminate surface must face down. The saw must also enter the benchtop from the front edge. This protects the laminate from chipping. When cutting the benchtops, use a saw blade with a high tooth count. Also do not cut freehand. Use a straight edge clamped to the benchtop to ensure a straight cut and to reduce twist in the saw. It is important to go at a slow but consistent speed. This will give you a cut that is chip free and ready to have edge strip applied. If possible always make a practice cut to check that your saw gives a satisfactory cut.

When applying the edge strip to finish your benchtop, use a good quality contact adhesive to adhere the laminate to the end of the benchtop. Follow the instructions on the packaging as each contact adhesive is slightly different. To trim the overhanging laminate, a laminate trimmer or a metal file can be used.

When using the laminate trimmer, ensure the tool is calibrated correctly as, if it is not, it can severely damage the benchtop. Practice on some spare laminate to check it is cutting correctly.

When using a metal file, slowly file down the excess laminate until it is even with the top and bottom surfaces. It is helpful to start in a single location then work from there, filing the side of the excess laminate. Always push toward the glued surface to reduce the risk of damaging laminate. When doing this, ensure the end of the file is kept off the top surface as it will scratch it.

If you have any questions about the techniques used for finishing, we are always happy to guide you through the process. Remember, if this is the first time doing something like this, just go slowly and there should be no problems. To finish the end strip of laminate, a fine sandpaper can be used to sand the end strip completely flush with the top of the benchtop. Care is needed, however, not to scratch the top of the benchtop with the sandpaper.

If you have granite benchtops, it is recommended that a sealer be used on your granite benchtops before use. Treating the surface will minimize staining and help stop stains from penetrating deeply into the stone. Please see the information sheet 'Caring for Your New Flat Pack Kitchen'.

### **Other Hints and Tips**

If you have any other questions or have any problems, please don't hesitate to contact us. These instructions are general guidelines only and may need to be varied for some installations.

### **Please note**

All dimensions are approximate. Prices and sizes subject to change without notice.