

STEP-BY-STEP

Installing pullouts for kitchen cabinets



By Stacy Downs | The Kansas City Star • Photos by David Eulitt | The Kansas City Star

Unfortunately almost all new cabinet boxes are made of particle board, which doesn't provide good support for securing new wood or wire organizational systems.

Before replacing your cabinets, you might consider restoring your existing ones which are more likely constructed of plywood. The great news is that you can add all of the modern amenities like wood and wire organization systems to almost any cabinet.

Krista Williamson, owner of K2Workshops in Overland Park, shows how to retrofit an old cabinet with modern pullouts.



Supplies

- Measuring tape
- Cutting pliers
- Silicone caulk
- Pencil
- Drill
- Handsaw
- Three pieces plywood or medium-density fibreboard cut to fit cabinet as shelves and supports*
- Pullout storage pieces (Companies include Rev-a-Shelf and Simple Human. The pullouts shown were purchased at Lowe's.)

* See notes in instructions



1. Measure the opening in your cabinet, left to right. For cabinets with a face frame, the opening is between the face frame, not the available space behind the frame. For cabinets with no face frame, it is the actual interior space. For both, minus space for any hinges that may be bumped by the pullouts.



2. If you have a half shelf in the back of the cabinet, you can keep it and install the pullouts only on the bottom, or you can cut the shelf in half to make it easier to remove.

Tip: For an unmarred outside, pull out finish nails or cut them off from the inside of the cabinet.

To add another shelf for a second level of pullouts, have your home improvement store cut three pieces of plywood or medium-density fibreboard for your cabinet. One piece (the shelf) is the width of your interior left to right by the depth available, behind the face frame. The second two pieces (the shelf supports) should be the same depth as the shelf by about half the available height.

Tip: Measure carefully and subtract 1/8-1/4 inch from each dimension so that they are easy to install without binding.



3. You can use a silicone adhesive to hold the shelf supports in place on both ends. Just apply several large (1-inch) dots of silicone on the surface and press firmly into place. This will spread the silicone and hold it in place as the adhesive dries. Set the shelf directly on top of the shelf supports. Hardware is not required, but if you choose to use nails or screws, make sure you will not pierce the exterior of the cabinet with nails that are too long.



4. Select cabinet pullouts that make the best use of your space. A few common sizes are available off the shelf. You can combine the available sizes to fill most of your cabinets, or you can custom-order pullouts and have fewer pullouts in larger sizes.



5. To install, set your pullouts in the cabinet space and verify that they will not bump into framing or hinges when you pull them out. When you're satisfied that they will function properly, mark the mounting holes (typically two front and two back) with a pencil on the shelf. You can then remove the shelf from the mounting assembly if needed to install the screws. Once all mounting screws are in place, reinstall the pullout shelf and test it out.

Tip: Whenever you see a mounting hole that is oblong, not round, think adjustable.

If you need to move your shelf slightly, simply loosen the screws and slide the entire assembly over, then retighten.