



Taylor Cabinet Door Company

Installing Refacing Materials

Before installing reface materials we recommend that you pre-finish all the materials first. Please refer to our Tips on Apply a Clear Finish (PDF).



The tools you'll need for the job. There are only a few tools required for this project, most will be found in the average homeowners garage. You'll need: a jig saw, a hand miter box, a hammer, a screw gun, a tape measure, a paper cutter, a utility knife, a nail set, a pencil, a Phillips #2 screw driver, a small set of drill bits, some 3/4" finish nails and Contact Cement glue.



1. You'll need to remove all the existing doors, drawers and moldings from your cabinets. If you're planning to use your existing hinges make sure you keep all your hardware. This is a great time to consider the inside of your existing cabinet boxes. Painting the interior of your cabinets will give the transition between the veneer skin and the face frame a very clean look. This will also makes the interior of your cabinets look like new. Please refer to our Painting Cabinet Interiors PDF.

TIP: If you have shelf paper in your cabinets try using a hair dryer to remove it. Just warm the paper with the hair dryer to soften the glue and lift it off.



2. **Installing End Panels.** When installing end panels on lower cabinets, you may have to cut out a notch for the cabinet toe kick. Mark the back of the panel then using your jigsaw cut it out. A jigsaw cuts upward, it can cause the material to splinter. This is why it is important to cut on the back of the panel. Double check by holding the panel in place before you make your cuts.



Toe kick

Installing Refacing Materials



- 3. When installing the panel.** You will need to use glue as well as nails. If you are using a contact cement make sure that you apply it to the back of the panel and the cabinet. Before you apply glue to the cabinet make sure the surface is clean and dry.



- 4. Hanging the end panel.** Use 3/4" finish nails to attach the panel to the cabinet. On the upper cabinet the panel needs to be flush with the bottom and face of the cabinet, the wall side and top will be covered with an edge molding. On the lower cabinets, the panel needs to be flush with the top and face, the wall side and bottom (if the bottom goes to the floor) will be covered with an edge molding. If you need to cut the panel down, cut the edges that will be covered by the moldings. Since you will be marking and cutting on the back side, it is best to mark the panel and hold it in place to make sure that you have marked the right edge before you cut. It is important that the face edge (front edge) is straight and flush with the cabinet frame, this will make a better corner when you apply the veneer skin. If the cabinet frame is not straight you may need to hold the Panel out a little and block sand the panel.



- 5. Applying the adhesive.** Lightly sand and clean the face frame of the cabinets. Using a brush apply Contact Cement to the face of the cabinets, making sure that you get a good coat on the edge of the end panel. This will help to make a professional looking corner. Let dry completely. Contact Cement is a pressure sensitive glue that works when two pieces of material with contact cement applied to them are pressed together. (Note the veneer skins have this glue pre-applied to them.) This type of glue has a working time of a few hours. It is best to apply all the glue before you start installing the veneer skins. (Contact Cement can be purchase at any hardware store.)



- 6. When installing the veneer skins.** It is best to follow the cabinet face frame. Typically the ends of the cabinet frames go from top to bottom you will want to do those first. The veneer comes with a wax paper backing that will not stick to the cabinet. You can lay the veneer on the cabinet face and mark the length with a utility knife.

Installing Refacing Materials

7. Use a paper cutter to cut it to length.



Tip: We recommend a wheel type of paper cutter. They are typically less expensive and will give you a cleaner cut. This type can be purchased at Staples, Office Depot, or direct from www.carl-products.com



8. **When installing the veneer skins.** Peel off the paper backing and attach the veneer to the face of the cabinet. Press down across the entire piece to glue it to the cabinet. There are a lot of little tricks when applying this material. When installing a piece between two others, start at one end, lightly press before you get to the other end bend the end in, the small bubble can be pressed out. This is one of those things you learn best by doing. If you don't like the way a piece went on don't be afraid to remove it. Just use a putty knife to remove it, throw it away, and start over.



9. **Finishing touches.** Use a color putty stick to cover the nail holes on the end panel, molding and any joint that might be a little loose.

Installing Refacing Materials

Moldings

This next section will explain options you have in cabinet moldings when ordering your materials. All of our moldings are made of solid hardwoods. If you are installing these molding by hand with finish nails, you will need to drill a pilot hole through the molding first, then nail the appropriate size finish nail through the molding. With a nail set you will want to countersink the nails, then cover the holes with a matching putty stick.

Optional: Depending how straight your walls are you may want to caulk the space between the molding and the wall.



2-3/8" Crown Molding

This molding is used for the tops of the cabinets. If your cabinets are butted to the ceiling, be sure that you have enough room at the top of your cabinets between the ceiling and the top of the cabinet doors. The crown molding will hang down 1-7/8" so we recommend at least 2-1/2" clearance. If you have not cut and installed crown molding before, be advised it can be tricky. Before you decide to order crown type molding, check the internet, there are a lot of websites on cutting and installing crown molding. For other options on trimming the tops of your cabinets see Base & Scribe Molding.



Installing Refacing Materials



2-3/8" Base Molding

This molding is typically used at the base of the cabinets, however it can also be used at the top of the cabinets. If you plan to use base molding at the top of your cabinets, make sure you have enough room between the cabinet doors and ceiling, we recommend at least 3".



Scribe Molding

This molding is used to trim-out the space between the wall and the cabinets. This can also include the top and base of the cabinets. Our scribe molding is 7/8" wide by 1/4" thick and has a decorative fluted design

