Affordable Kitchens





Affordable Windows

Important!

We apologize for anyone inconvenienced by this, but here goes. There are about 100 small reasons that we can keep our overhead low in order to keep our prices low. One of which is, we keep our workers close in proximity to our showroom, so they don't spend a lot of the day traveling from kitchen to kitchen. For this reason, our furthest reach to remodel a kitchen is shown on the map below. Sorry for this, but it helps us immensely to keep our prices as low as possible. If you live outside of these boundaries, we do have a referral of a great kitchen remodeler who will assist you at a fair price and we would supply the cabinets. He is very dependable or we would not refer him.



We have about 300 pictures of
our completed kitchens on
Facebook @ Affordable Kitchens Wheaton.
Many of those pictures show a new kitchen
window that we supplied and installed.

Let's Get Started

This booklet pertains to kitchens
The insert pertains to windows

Our previous customers ranked their kitchen remodel with AFFORDABLE KITCHENS in their top ten most enjoyable life experiences. A Disney cruise came in 11th and Prom came in 12th, just to give you an idea of how fun this would be. (Not a scientific study… in fact we may have embellished a tad). The very first step in beginning this exciting adventure is to call, BILL (630-890-3379) for your free in home design consultation. This in home visit takes about one hour and fifteen minutes. We bring our computer and design the kitchen on our CAD program as we are discussing your wish list. At the end of your 1 hour and 15 minute (or so) free design consultation, we present you with the prices of the remodel and those prices are good for one year. I say "prices" instead of "price" because we separate (Ala Carte) all of the costs separate from each other so you can see what each item is costing. Cabinets, Counter-tops, wall removal, electrical, etc. will all have separate pricing. Everybody wants to know where every dollar is going, so we show you. We give you a reference list with a minimum of 300 previous customers that will vouch for the whole Disney Cruise, Prom thing. We keep the computer drawings at the showroom, similar to a hostage situation, but you may come visit them whenever you like.

You may want to get a highlighter marker about now, because you are about to read some very interesting stuff that will be difficult to find later.

Here at Affordable Kitchens, we operate 3 different ways. You could have us do the entire kitchen remodel from start to finish, or… you can purchase the cabinets from us so your contractor of choice can do your remodel... or... purchase the cabinets from us and have our guy install them while your contractor of choice does the Remodel. Either way, we would need to do the free in home design to get started. If you choose us for any of those 3, we come back to your house a second time for what we call a "Storyboard Re-measure". At this visit, we double check all the measurements and make any changes you would like us to make. We ask that you have the cabinet door style and color selected so you can tell us your selection at this "Storyboard Re-measure". If you choose us to do the entire remodel, we take care of everything. You could be at work all day long or on a European vacation during the project and we will come through. We are "Spot On" and our references will back that up. If

you choose to coordinate your own remodel and just purchase the cabinets from us, there are several benefits to purchasing the cabinets from us instead of somewhere else. When we order your cabinets, the order will be 100% on the money. Bill and Grace go over the order with a fine tooth comb; including every piece of trim down to the smallest of details. If there is anything wrong with the order, Bill and Grace take complete responsibility for it and correct any problem at no cost to you. Bill has been remodeling Wheaton for 30 years and can do this in his sleep. Disclaimer: Bill promises to remain awake during the ""Storyboard Re-measure"". ☺

If you are having someone else install our cabinets, Bill will meet with them to go over all the details of the layout. We want them to succeed. We give them as much attention as they require to do a great job. We don't just drop off the cabinets and hope your installer is up for the challenge. It is in our best interest for their installation to run smoothly. We want them to love us so they will send future customers our way for cabinets. If they scratch a cabinet door, we will get you a free door. If they cut a piece of crown molding wrong, we will get you a free piece of crown. If they shoot a gun nail through their toe, we are closed and we have never heard of you. ☺

We deliver the cabinets to your house free of charge and stack them nicely where you tell us. For customers who are only ordering the cabinets from us, (coordinating their own kitchen remodel), we will match any competitor's prices on equal cabinets. It is tedious to go over every single detail of a kitchen order, so we only do it for people coordinating their own remodel. Our prices are extremely competitive, and many times we will spend a couple of hours with a customer comparing apples to apples only to find out we are lower by a couple of hundred dollars. When we give you your cabinet price, it has every tiny detail in the quote. Usually when a customer wants us to match a competitor's price because there is a significant difference, their order is missing several necessary items that we have included, which bridge the price gap to a non-issue. Coordinating your own kitchen remodel can not only be a rewarding experience, but an enjoyable one. Bill has remodeled over 1500 kitchens and has a simple test you can conduct in the privacy of your own home to determine whether or not your personality is conducive with running such an operation. First, place your hand flat on the counter, with all your fingers spread apart. Then, remove the meat tenderizer from the drawer and bring it down full

force on your thumb. If you can calmly put the tenderizer back in the drawer, (and close it), without making a face, you are perfectly suited for scheduling blue collar workers. ☺

After you choose AFFORDABLE KITCHENS to create your dream kitchen, because you called our references and found out "WE ARE AWESOME," this is how we get started:

Bill and Grace come back to your home for the ""Storyboard Re-measure"" to catch any mistakes and firm up any changes. At this time, as far as appliances go, we need the refrigerator size. Free standing stoves are usually 30 inches wide, unless you want a larger 36, 42, or 48 inch. Over the Range microwaves are always 30 inches wide and Dishwashers are always 24 inches wide. The refrigerator is always the wild card. We will then plug in any errors or changes into the cabinet ordering system and we are ready to order the cabinets. At this point, we take full responsibility for any mistakes. If there is anything wrong with the order, it is unconditionally our fault.

We ask that you pay for the cabinets in full at the time of the "Storyboard Re-measure" along with tax. This is because after ordering the cabinets, ("At this Storyboard Re-measure"), our cabinet manufacturer pulls the money from our revolving charge, and Affordable Kitchens has then paid for the cabinets in full. You can pay with check or credit card. Because the wonderful banking industry charges us a whopping 3.5% fee on credit card transactions, and because we operate on a tight margin, we have begun charging customers an extra 3% fee for using a credit card. After you pay for the cabinets, you do not pay for anything else, such as wall removal, electric, tile backsplash, etc. until the kitchen is entirely finished.

About The Cabinets: We used to carry a few different Cabinet manufactures, but over the years, one has risen to the top. The manufacturer is "Shiloh" and their website is Shilohcabinetrycom. Their product is excellent and I assure you that you will have no problems down the road. They are a husband and wife team that started the business in 1977 out of a small shed in Dudley, Missouri. They have invested millions in "State Of The Art" equipment and robotics and still go into work every day, not because they have to, but because they want to. I have been to the plant and it runs like a well oiled machine, with quality control their top priority.

Over the past 40 years, this husband and wife team have grown their company from a shed you could push over with 2 strong guys, to a 1.4 million square foot factory that employs over 800 people. The small town of Dudley has a population of 323 people, so they employ a lot of hard working people from neighboring towns. Grace and I feel good about giving them our business. They offer a great product at a fair price. They are a true American success story, and have a lot to be proud of.

We will give you two different prices on cabinets. Their mid-range cabinets which is called "Aspect" and their high-end cabinetry which is simply called "Shiloh." Even their high-end cabinets are very affordable. There is about a 25% difference in cost between the 2 cabinet lines. In our showroom, on the right side, is an entire wall of doors. The red dot doors are the higher end and the Green-dot doors are the mid-range. 90% of our customers go with the mid-range cabinets. The other 10% go with the higher end only because they see a color that they have to have and the colors do not overlap from mid-range to high-end. Helpful hint: Close your eyes and walk to the back half of the store where the green dots are located. Both mid-range and high-end cabinets come with the same Blumotion drawer glides with full extension drawers, ball bearing glides, and the soft close feature with a 75 lb. weight capacity that we guarantee for life. Blumotion Drawer Glides and Hinges are the undisputed champs in the industry. They are German engineered and manufactured. They are the "BMW" of drawer glides and hinges. Every cabinet we sell has Blumotion. No need to upgrade. They are in your cabinet pricing. The drawer boxes are solid wood construction with dove tail joints and are virtually indestructible. The doors have 6-way adjustable hinges mortised into the door and come with the soft close feature. They are also German engineered and manufactured by the same Blumotion company. Again, both lines of cabinets come with those features. There is no upgrading necessary. The only difference between the high-end and the mid-range cabinetry, in other words "Green Dot cabinets vs. Red Dot cabinets," is that the high end Red Dot cabinetry has all plywood construction, whereas the mid-range cabinetry only has plywood on the exposed finished sides. In my opinion that is the only place you need plywood. When two cabinets join each other, that is particle board. The particle board is much stronger than it used to be, due to

advances in glues. Even Green Dot mid-range cabinets will out live all of us. Disclaimer: Maybe not the millennials. ☺

The cabinets take 7 weeks for Shiloh to build, then they magically appear at our showroom. Here is a very important rule of thumb that you will want to highlight because it is the burning question that everyone wants to know: How long will it take to do the kitchen? Kitchens take from 4-6 weeks from start to finish, which is an impressive and vigorous pace.

When Grace and I come to do the "Storyboard Re-measure", and go over every little detail, you pay for the cabinets right then, and we order them. I tailor our custom calendar to your project by first plugging in the cabinet install day. This will be 7 weeks down the road because that is how long it takes to get the cabinets from Shiloh. The cabinet install day is in the middle of the calendar, so I then complete the calendar by filling in backwards and then forwards from the cabinet install day. **Important**: We have no backlog of kitchens that you have to get in line behind. Ever. The start date of your kitchen depends solely on when you pay for the cabinets at the "Storyboard Re-measure". And then we plug in on the calendar 7 weeks into the future for your cabinet install.

At the moment you pay for the cabinets, we click the "Send" button to place the order. 5 seconds later, give or take, we plug in the start date of your kitchen on your calendar that we give you. We will be following this calendar very closely, but not exactly. Things will arise that can set us back a day or two. This calendar is a day by day account of activity that we have planned for your kitchen so you can follow along, not being kept in the dark. Before the calendar, we used to get asked many of the same questions: what's going to take place tomorrow? What's the order of progression? When should we schedule the appliances to be installed? When do we have to have the tile for the backsplash? When do you anticipate finishing? (I'm stressed out just typing all that). We give you this custom calendar (filled out by Bill) tailored to fit your exact kitchen to answer all of these questions. Each of our workers have a copy of your calendar, and know what is to occur on each day. I fill it out for a very quick pace, so if we are off by a couple of days, please bare with us and remember this: No contractor in his right mind would ever give you a calendar like this. My contractor friends ask me why I would give the customer the bullet

to shoot my foot? The reason is this: we want everyone on the same page, including our workers, our customers, the Countertop Company, your painter, your flooring person and your appliance company. This calendar is designed to keep everyone in the loop regarding what happens next. Think of our calendar as a flow chart, or strategy, or well-laid plan. My two favorite quotes pertaining to planning:

1. "Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe."
   - Abraham Lincoln

2. "Everyone has a plan 'til they get punched in the face."
   -Mike Tyson ☺

My calendar is a tool to inform everyone what is to take place that day, and if we are off by a couple of days, your kitchen was still completed very, very quickly and faster than 99 % of the kitchen remodels out there. Just Google, "How long should a kitchen remodel take?" and you will find actual "Victims", I mean "People", who have just wrapped up their "Nightmare", I mean "Kitchen Remodel", and talk about how long their project took from start to finish. If you have ever gone through difficult remodel, it is no fun at all. Times like that, I find solace in words spoken by Winston Churchill.

"If you are going through hell.... keep going"

We complete our kitchens expeditiously, and we give you over 300 references that will vouch for that. They will tell you how quickly it was done, and my calendar runs at a brisk pace. Remodeling a kitchen is a complex proposition that has many moving parts. We have spent many years refining our process to help prevent deviating from our calendar. I believe we have simplified this complicated puzzle as far as we can to have little to no surprises throughout the project.

My dad told me when I was 10 to "Keep it simple, stupid..." I live by that philosophy to this day. I knew what he said must have been important. It stuck. I remember being surprised at the time because he had never called me "Stupid" before. ☺

Picking appliances. Refrigerators are usually 33 or 36 inches wide and come in standard depth or counter depth. 36 inches wide are the most common between the 2. 33 inch wide counter depth

refrigerators only have 3 or so to chose from. 95% of all free-standing stoves are 30 inches wide, but there are also 36, 42, or 48 inches wide. Dishwashers are always 24 inches wide. Over the Range microwaves are always 30 inches wide. Microwaves and hoods that recirculate through filters are becoming more prevalent. This means no venting or duct work to the outside of the house is needed. This recirculating technology has advanced tremendously in the last 5 years, but if you have an existing duct that is the correct diameter, we will re-use that duct. If you don't have an existing duct venting outside, or your existing duct is too small and needs to be increased in diameter, we can do it, but it is difficult and hence, costly. It will usually cost between $300.00 (small duct) to $800.00 (big duct) to increase the duct size, depending on the degree of difficulty. In this case, many of our customers choose to go with the recirculating technology that is available in most microwaves and hoods. The wooden cabinet hoods offered by "Shiloh" are beautiful, but are larger in a kitchen than you think. As you search the internet for kitchens, you will see many of these "Wooden Hoods" that will make your mouth water, but you will notice that they are always in kitchens with a 9 or 10 ft. ceiling. Many houses only have an 8 ft ceiling, and these wooden hoods simply won't look correct. Also, "Budget Wise" customers should be aware, the least expensive of these are about $3,100.00, but don't look as attractive as the ones that run about $3,900.00. Also, these need to be vented to the outside with a 7 or 8 inch duct that you most likely don't have. That ventilation will cost another $600, give or take, and then a $580 install fee for the hood. Needless to say, it gets expensive for the wooden hoods. Double ovens, built-in ovens and built-in microwaves, will have been thoroughly dissected before the cabinet order is placed.

We love Abt Appliance in Glenview. For the best price from "Abt," ask for Sam Spain and mention Affordable Kitchens. You should call ahead to get his hours. He takes special care of our customers to get you their lowest price.

Sinks… many choices… 95% of all kitchen sinks are 33" inches wide. If your sink base is 33" inches wide or above, you will be getting a 33 inch wide undermount sink. Farmhouse sinks (apron sinks) are also an option. They run about $200.00-$500.00 dollars *more* than undermount sinks. For the under mount sinks, Stainless Steel and Composite are our customer's two favorites. If you choose stainless steel, you can get them at the "Box" stores. If you want a heavier gauge

stainless steel than what the Box stores offer, I recommend Ferguson in Oakbrook on Butterfield Rd. Phone # 630-916-8560. They also have nicer faucets than what the Box stores carry. The good news is, if you mention AFFORDABLE KITCHENS, you will receive a discount of some kind. Many of our customers choose a "composite" as an alternative to stainless steel. When it comes to undermount sinks, many have had success with SWAN STONE composite undermount sinks. Most plumbing supply houses carry SWAN STONE, but guess who else carries the SWAN STONE brand?……. MENARDS. They can special order different configurations (for example, double bowl/single bowl combinations) in several different colors. You can bring a sample of your countertop selection to Menards (that the countertop company will gladly give you), and hold it against the sample colors of Swan Stone to make your sink selection. These composite sinks hold up extremely well against red wine, blueberries, and coffee stains. Also, if you cut one with a knife, you'll see that it is made of the same color all the way through and it's difficult to see any damage. They cost about $350.00 and take 10 - 14 days to come in. Ferguson, that I spoke about above, carries several manufacturers of composite sinks, and they cost about $350 - $500 after our discount.

IMPORTANT (you know this must be since I used all caps): One out of five customers have some sort of problem with the sink they have ordered. This is true no matter where you order your sink from, whether it be Kohler, Menards or Ferguson. These are the common problems: It may come in late, come in damaged, or come in the wrong color… or all three. In which case, lay off the lottery ticket purchases until you notice an obvious and dramatic upswing in your luck. Many times we are unable to install that sink when we are ready, because of these issues, and our customer's kitchen is entirely finished except that they don't have a sink, and hence running water. (On demand, clean running water is what separates us from cavemen.) Don't let this happen to you. Order the sink earlier, rather than later, and inspect that little guy. Note: A tiny scratch is something you may want to look past, knowing the sink may get a few more, due to "the Fam."

IMPORTANT: You must supply us with the basket strainer/ flange assemblies to install the sink. These are the decorative metal rims at the bottom of every sink. I will talk about these more in a moment. The faucet you select should not have any plastic assembly.

It should have a Brass Body assembly. It may be $50 more, but will last longer without leaking. Home Depot and Menards have both the "bad" plastic and the "good" brass. Talk to a "qualified" staff member at those stores to help you distinguish between the two. We can install your old disposal if you choose. If you buy a new disposal, it will come with a new strainer, (aka "flange drain assembly"), usually stainless steel. To put it simply, this is the decorative metal rim at the bottom drain of the sink. The non-disposal side of the sink will also need one. This is known as the strainer assembly. You will be supplying these 2 items for our plumber. They may come with the sink purchase, but maybe not. This has always been a problem, so I will go into this a little deeper. You will benefit from some of our previous customer's anguish with this next bit of advice. Your first impulse will be to special order satin nickel or oilrubbed bronze strainers/flanges. If you do this, please call Bill that evening so he can pray for all involved. The satin nickel drain assembly you are about to special order may not fit your existing disposal, or even your new disposal. The sales associate (with good intentions), will use key words to reassure you that the strainer/ flange you are about to order will fit your new or existing disposal and you must listen for these key words (especially if used with repetition): "One size fits all" or" Universal size" or "Standard in the industry." If you hear these catch phrases, pause a moment, and ask them nonchalantly "Have you ever been wrong before?" I assure you, not all special order manufacture's strainer/drain assemblies fit all garbage disposals. If you buy in-stock strainers from the same place you buy the disposal, we will have an excellent chance of success; (i.e) if you get the disposal from Home Depot, and get an oil- rubbed bronze strainer from Home Depot, we should be good. The best advice would be to stick with stainless steel for the strainer (drain assembly) at the bottom of your sink. Note: HOME DEPOT carries the "Insinkerator" brand disposal, which is a very dependable disposal and comes with a stainless steel rim. Now, you will need one for the other side if it's a double bowl sink. That second one may come with your sink purchase. Wouldn't that be nice?

Quartz **countertops (or similar)** A lot of our customers feel the most stress when selecting their countertops. Some customers glide right through it, while others need to take medication to slow their heart rate. Lying in bed at night, staring at the ceiling, with the

same unanswered questions swirling in their head. "What if I make the wrong choice? I could ruin my whole kitchen... perhaps the single biggest decision I will ever make... and my dream kitchen hangs in the balance.... What if my selection doesn't look the way I thought it would?... What if it's too busy and overwhelms the kitchen... What if it clashes with the tile?" Whoa.... Relax.... Let's take it down a notch. Sounds like you are in need of a countertop pep talk. Let me think of a good one... a real Joe Madden, Cubs Game Seven, World Series, kind of pep talk. Wait!... I Got It! Here goes... Franklin D. Roosevelt is considered by scholars to be one of the three greatest presidents in U.S. history, along with George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Kind of hard to argue with that. At his 1933 inauguration address he famously said, "There is nothing to fear but fear itself." Words to live by. It is, after all, an emotion that can be tempered. Watch the movie "Halloween" with Jaime Lee Curtis at 10 in the morning with the sun beaming in.... Ok... Now try it at midnight with all the lights out and your significant other on a business trip. Keep whispering, "Nothing to fear but fear itself." That technique could have come in handy when I was eleven years old and my parents took me to the premiere of "Jaws," and that HEAD popped out of the submerged boat. The worst part was that my "Scuba" G.I. Joe, that came with a really cool Shark accessory, was no longer allowed in the tub with me. (Some would say eleven was a good age to give that up anyway). In my parents' defense, they didn't know about this new, up and coming director, Steven Spielberg, and what he was capable of. If I could time travel, I would teleport right past JFK and Elvis and bring FDR to the Studio Movie Grill showing of "Jaws." I'm a big FDR fan, and at the time, the "nothing to fear" statement helped calm a nation. But still, I'd like to see his expression when the "Head" pops out of that Boat. Let's see if he is able to take his own advice. Then, when the "color" returns to his face and his "Kung Fu grip" starts to release the armrest, I would tell him, "nothing to fear here, Mr. President, but this is where Quint slides down the deck of the boat kicking and screaming into the shark's mouth." ☺

Kidding aside, he was a fearless leader, and exactly what the country needed. The implementation of his "New Deal" economic policy helped pull our nation out of the Great Depression, and his decision to inject our nation into World War II showed his courage in turbulent times. The stress he and the First Lady, Eleanor, must have

endured during his four terms must have been excruciating. Yes, that's right, four terms.

Where am I going with this? To be honest, I forgot... give me a second... Oh yes, this was a pep talk to relieve your "Fear" of countertop selection. Here's my summation: if FDR and Eleanor survived the Great Depression and World War II, and you survived "Jaws" and Disco, YOU are more battle-tested than you think! You got this! Disclaimer: To those of you born after 1979, who have no idea what I'm talking about, YOU survived Y2K and the Backstreet Boys.

Final disclaimer: I did not "survive" Disco. I am thankfully still living it. And, if you don't absolutely love the "Bee Gees" like I do, there will be a 4% "Sir-charge" on your cabinet order. And, no, I did not misspell "Sir-charge," since Prince Charles knighted Barry Gibb at Buckingham Palace in June, 2018. ☺

To Whom It May Concern: In my 30 years of remodeling Wheaton, I have learned that every person reacts differently when a perfectly functioning kitchen is suddenly removed, and adults and kids are forced to scavenge for food. A working kitchen that was serving everyone's needs just fine has inexplicably been removed and High-Schoolers returning home from a hard day are faced with the unfamiliar task of hunting and gathering food like our ancestors. Parents and retired couples do very well because we had it a little tougher than kids today. I remember what it was like as a youngster coming home from Emerson Grade School on the west side of Wheaton in the 70's and telling my mom "I'm hungry," and her responding "I'm sure you'll figure something out". I didn't know it at the time, but she was teaching me to be independent and self sufficient. If you tried that today, DCFS might knock on your door and start a "FILE". ☺

If you decide to remove your perfectly adequate, functioning kitchen in favor of a "brand new", "dream come true", "I can't believe my good fortune meeting Bill from Affordable Kitchens", remember this: if you have, for instance, two High-Schoolers and one Middle-Schooler, and it's the fourth day without a kitchen, and they appear slightly traumatized at the prospect of having to scrape some grub together, do not shrug this off as a slight inconvenience for a "usually grumpy anyway" teenager. Like I said when I started on this tangent, every person reacts differently when forced to scavenge

for food. When you call these teenagers to let them know you are bringing food home and to your surprise they are all sitting at your makeshift dinette in anticipation, you think, "this is nice... .All of us sitting down together for a change to enjoy dinner as a family like in the 80's". But before you set that bucket of KFC in the center of the table, do me a favor. With the bucket in one hand, depress the microphone button on your cable TV remote and speak this verbatim; "Animal Planet... Lions vs. Hyenas... feeding frenzy" and see what pops up on the TV. I'm pretty sure those same lions and hyenas are also part of a loving family. ☺

Door Samples. You are welcome to take some of our door samples from the showroom for the countertop selection. You are always welcome to take anything from our showroom for your selections. Our showroom is open from 8am until about 9pm every day, including Sunday, although we may not be there, so help yourself. You are welcome to come and get doors the day or night before you need them. We have pillow cases for you to put the doors into to protect them. Please have them back in 48 hours, since other customers may want the same door samples, and we only have so many to go around. Most of our customers need to take a few doors home to see what the colors look like in their environment. We only ask that you have the samples back within 48 hours. Please take a picture of each sample you are taking and text those selections to Grace at 630-205-6266 so the FBI will know where to serve their "No Knock Warrant". We know it helps to see your cabinet color against the countertop you are trying to select, but there was a customer a couple of years ago who ran past the 48 hours. That night, the channel 5 news Chopper Team referred to the siege in Wheaton as a "hostage situation", but we just wanted our door back. ☺

Note: You will be calling Bill and Grace for all kinds of questions. Grace's cell phone # is 630-205-6266. You can call me, Bill, from 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. (You would have to ask Grace, but I think you can call her up until midnight, including Sundays.) ☺

Countertops. We use two different countertop companies that compete for your business. This keeps their prices low and customer service high. On the flipside, no competition is why our cable/internet prices are high, with customer service low. But, don't get me started on Comcast... Ooops… is that slander? If they sue me, my attorney

will just pick jurors who have Comcast. ☺

Due to this competition between countertop companies that we insist on, if they win the right to fabricate your countertops, they will be treating you like their livelihood depends on it, as it should be. You will be treated like Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed walking down the red carpet at the 1946 premiere of 'It's a Wonderful Life'. We could All use that kind of treatment once in a while. A red carpet should be the bar for customer service. Not the doormat the dog wipes his feet on before entering the Comcast complaint center. Oops… I did it again. (The first step in proving slander is to prove the defendant is lying. How long will it take for my attorney to call 1 million unhappy Comcast subscribers to the witness stand?) ☺

You will be going to the countertop company's warehouse (that won the bid to do your countertops) for your selections. You are more than welcome to get other bids from other countertop companies. You may go with "Us" or choose your own countertop company. Either way is fine. Whomever you choose, they will get plugged into our calendar and will be there when we are ready.

Remember: We don't do flooring or painting, but whomever you choose for that, will also be plugged into our calendar and part of the entire project.

Tile backsplash. If you go to the 'Tile Shop' in Lombard or Naperville, you will receive 25% off when you mention our store. We will tell you how much tile to get.

Handles/Knobs---- Grace will work up the count of the knobs and handles that you need. Menards has a pretty extensive selection of knobs/handles. Many of our customers are also going online to PULLS.COM and other websites to save some "dough."

Its start day! Yay! We start between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. that day. We ask that you please have any cars out in the street and especially have them out of the garage. It would be greatly appreciated. We need to set the old cabinets in the garage for a few hours until our truck comes to hall them away, and we don't want to scratch any vehicles. (We never use dumpsters). One of our Box Trucks pulls up when we are finished with the demo, and we haul it away to our dumpster.

We start by removing the countertops and cabinets. Please have some sort of note on the countertops or cabinets you want us to save for you. We will place these cabinets or countertops that you would like to save in your garage or basement. We will ask you which appliances are being re-installed and which are not. The refrigerator will be moved to another room and plugged back in so you can continue to use it. Same with the microwave. On a side note: if your decorative trim around your window, (known as casing,) looks really bad from years of wear and tear, here's our deal for you: We will replace it for free, if you supply us with the new trim. You must get the same width that was already there or the cabinets won't fit. Let the guys know on the first day if we will be doing this, so they can remove the casing around the window immediately. We want our taper/drywaller to do a nice job around the window in preparation for that new trim.

REROUTING OF MECHANICAL PRICING.

Rerouting of Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical etc., which is usually always necessary has separate pricing. But we don't guess at what that is. So instead of giving you a huge price that includes everything, like some contractors do, we give you the smallest price we can, but you still have to pay for A' La Carte items, such as rerouting an HVAC duct or a plumbing stack. We won't know what they cost until we open up the walls or the soffits and see them for the first time. We are very low with all of these prices, and our references will vouch for that. Our goal is not to get into your house and make extra money on these items. We just try to break even on labor and materials. (20 years ago, I used to give an allowance for this stuff and one bid to do all the work. I quickly learned that customers want to know exactly where every penny is going and don't want that big single bid, with no way of dissecting that bid to figure out where the money is going). The electric is the easiest to reroute. The plumbing is more difficult, and the duct work is by far the most difficult. I have a Heating/Air Conditioning guy at the ready. He is very fair and it's usually $200.00 to $300.00 to reroute a duct. A prayer the night before our Demo, repeating "please no duct… please no duct," may or may not help with this, but I recommend it. For the previous customers who prayed, only to find a duct the next day, I am thoroughly convinced 'The Man Upstairs' thought they said "Duck", and low and behold, there were

no 'ducks' for us to deal with. (In case you are only granted one prayer per kitchen, don't tell your significant other that you already used it on "Ducks.") ☺

NOTE: The final cost for everything to remove the soffits is about $2,500.00. This includes the removal of the soffits, rerouting of the mechanicals, re-drywalling, taping, and the cost of the required taller cabinets and crown molding. Half of our customers leave the soffits, while the other half, have us remove them. We can still make the kitchen look great for those of you who choose to leave the soffits.

Electrician. When our electrician shows up, we will convey to him what you are looking for as far as canlights and under cabinet lighting, etc. He is well versed in this department and knows exactly how many canlights will be necessary and where everything should be placed. We have an Orange Electrical sheet which has all of our Electrical Prices on it. Example: 6" CanLights are $115.00 and adding an outlet is $70.00. We supply all the materials and labor including canlights, under cabinet lights, dimers, GFI outlets etc. All recessed lights and under cabinet lights that we provide will of course be LED. They are the ECO friendly choice and will save the lives of 2 baby Polar Bears, 3 Bottle Nose Dolphins and an Emperor Penguin. This is not scientific. It is only a fact which I spent some downtime estimating. Also, I said baby Polar Bears, instead of regular size Polar Bears, because of the cuteness scale of those little guys. Taking nothing away from the Emperor Penguin, but in my opinion, they have completely overplayed the whole "tuxedo" thing. By the way, Morgan Freeman's narration of "March of the Penguins" reminds me never to complain about Chicago winters. ☺

When our electrician is completed with his 'rough-in' stage, our dry-waller/taper comes in and drywalls and tapes everything to perfection, making it paint-ready. If you are going with hardwood floors, that flooring should of course run under the cabinets we are about to install. Only laminate and vinyl plank floors go up to the cabinets. Affordable Kitchens does not do floors but we do have a couple of flooring specialist that you could get an estimate from. They are proven winners and they have done many of our customers floors. On the other hand, you may choose your own. But, whomever you choose as your floor company, we will work perfectly well with them, giving them whatever time they need to do the floors. They will be

plugged into our calendar, so they know the exact day they are to start and finish.

Since we are talking about floors, let's talk about vinyl. This is where you start to laugh because I used the word "vinyl" when talking about flooring. When I talk about "vinyl," I am talking about a product that is made to look like real wood and is so authentic that you instinctively reach down and rub it with your fingers to see if it is real wood. Also, our showroom floor is vinyl plank. My sister, "Kitty", bought a new house in Mill Creek Subdivision in Geneva. They chose a pre-finished engineered hardwood floor that was supposed to be very durable. Their dog scratched the dickens out of it, and they got tired of worrying about it. So, they bought one box of the vinyl plank and clicked it together down the hallway for an experimental run. For one week, they would roll the ball down the hallway and let their German Shepherd run and skid across it, trying to damage the floor. There were no ill-effects. They ordered 1,400 square feet and did the whole first floor. (Over the existing hardwood). They even installed it over the tile in the bathroom. Vinyl plank floors cost about $2.50 - $5.00 per square foot and about $2 per square foot for the install. The best attribute of these "faux" wood floors that look like real wood is that when you go to sell the house in 10 or 15 years they will look as good as the day you installed them. Try to say that about a real hardwood floor. This product "is the future" and real hardwood floors, that scratch so easily, will soon become thought of in the same way as "flip phones". No offense to those of you who still have a flip phone! ☺

This next item is very IMPORTANT: If you are keeping the soffits, the underside of the soffits need to be painted before cabinet install. When we remove your cabinets, there will be a crummy painted edge that needs dressing up. It would be next to impossible to do it after the new cabinets are installed, and you will see that crummy edge. Someone needs to address this little painting situation before the new cabinets go up, or all the doors on the wall cabinets will have to come off to do it, and no one wants that. So let's have the painter, whomever that is, ready to go. You will need that ceiling paint at the ready as soon as we remove your cabinets to address that situation. Again, this is only if your soffits are staying. Important: Never final coat the walls before the cabinet install. The walls will get slight damage during countertop and cabinet install.

Pertaining to any glass that you may want in a couple of your wall cabinets: We call those cabinets "Prepped" for glass door frames. It is free for Shiloh to create a door that is "Prepped" for glass, but you must supply your own glass. Shiloh will not ship the glass anymore. It is too fragile and often shatters during transport. We give you the measurements for the glass and you may go into Carslon's Glass, near our Showroom, to purchase the glass. We will then install it. They have all types of glass to choose from, and they will cut it to the exact size. We will give you the exact measurements of the glass required once we install the cabinets. We love Carlson's Glass, located in Wheaton, two blocks from our showroom, at 111 East Front Street (630) 668-4000. (You know they've been in business a long time to get the phone number 668-4000. If I'm not mistaken, the first residents to settle in Wheaton were a family of "Trappers" over at Lincoln Marsh and they got the phone number 668-1000). ☺

Let's take a well deserved time out. Here is my favorite joke. I use this joke to break the ice at dinner parties when I don't know anyone. Sometimes I get a good chuckle, while other times there is an uncomfortable silence and I hear crickets. I haven't used it for a few months, since I got crickets on the last two attempts. My timing could have been off. The last time I tried it, I was talking to an elderly gentleman who had his arm in a sling and I asked, "What happened to your arm?" He said, "I just had rotator cuff surgery." He had nothing more to add and there was an uncomfortable pause... we just looked at each other. My thoughts raced for something to say, but I had nothing... he had nothing. One of us had to say something... so, I looked him in the eye to inject a sense of profound revelation and said, "When I die, I want to go just like my Grandpa... nice and peaceful... in my sleep. Not a worry in the world." He looked at me and nodded. We paused a second to ponder that thought. After a moment, I added, "Not like the other 3 guys in the car, kicking and screaming." He just looked at me with a blank stare. Amused he was not. So I sauntered away to the nachos in defeat.

Like Jay Leno says, "It's all in the timing."

Cabinet Install. We are now ready to install the cabinets. We un-box the cabinets, break down all the large cardboard boxes, and put them into four or five of the small cabinet boxes. We hope you can put them at the street for your recycling. If you call us the day before, we can come out and put them at the street. I have never had

a recycle company not take boxes filled with cardboard. (We don't want all this cardboard in the landfill). Your existing cabinets from your house may go to GoodWill (if they are good enough). I have a rule… nothing goes to the landfill if there is a chance that someone would want it. Disclaimer: some cabinets no one would want and they do go to the landfill. If they are so bad the landfill turns them away, we put them on a slow moving train passing through Wheaton heading west. One of our new employees got turned around and accidently loaded a train heading east and some cabinets ended up at the BEAN in Millennium Park.

The cabinet install takes about 2-3 days, but we are usually ready for the countertop fabricator to come out and measure on the second day. You will need to covey to the countertop person taking the measurements such things as the edge you would like, the desired hangover for the barstools (usually 8-12 inches) if applicable, and the countertop backsplash height. There may be no quartz backsplash, because if you have a tile backsplash, tile usually runs down to the countertop. The countertop measurer will also need to take the new sink with him, (or at least the paper template in the box). He will not need the faucet on this day. The countertops will arrive in 6-10 days. He will then need the faucet. He will install the countertops, drill the hole for the faucet, and install the sink. If you have chosen an apron or farmhouse sink, our cabinet installer will need to install that before the countertop company comes to take the measurements.

On a side note, I went to see a Marriage Counselor in Wheaton (even though I never got married) and I explained to him an unusual dilemma. I said, "Pertaining to my kitchen customers, in every relationship there is one partner that enjoys reading more than the other. So only one of them is reading this Let's Get Started booklet." After a description of the problem, he sent me away with some good advice that works every time. To be honest, I combined his advice with an episode of the Brady Bunch and Steve Irwin's Crocodile Hunter. I have saved 7 marriages so far with that $125.00 investment. (The marriage counselor has only saved 4). I call it the Counter Claim, Powder Keg, I Beg to Differ, Red Panda Rule, or..... just "Red Panda" for short. Disclaimer: this will only work during the kitchen remodel. So here's how it works. When your spouse or loved one says something so blatantly wrong, that completely contradicts what Bill has spelled out so thoroughly in his vast writings (that you have read and they

obviously have not), you calmly say "Red Panda." Then you explain that "Red Panda" is Code for "I read it in Bill's writings so I know it to be true." When they realize you are right (because you show them where I wrote it), they will quickly learn that when "Red Panda" is declared, it is futile to dispute. It is a polite way of saying, "You couldn't be more wrong and you need to quit conjuring up make believe stuff in your head and join us back here on earth." (Without having to actually say it to their face). I used "Red Panda" because the mere thought of that cute little mammal with the "bandit eyes" instantly diffuses any unnecessary tiffs. Remember, if you read it in Bill's writings, and know it to be true...just say "Red Panda."

Grace and I grew up with a dad who was, in our opinion, the greatest dad on planet earth. He was mild mannered, had a great sense of humor and rarely got upset. I remember hanging on his every word as a child in the 60s and 70s; watching him, studying him as he conducted himself in business and family. He was easygoing and charismatic, but there was one thing that would frost him without fail, every time. He called it, "The Ole Bait and Switch." He told me it's when someone tells you to expect one thing, knowing full well you will be getting something less.

With that, I will pull back the curtain and expose the inevitable trouble that is headed your way. When you purchase your new appliances, you will undoubtably pay for the install of those appliances. (Affordable Kitchens does not install new appliances. We only reinstall those you intend to keep). When you leave the store, after purchasing appliances, you think to yourself, "Done... appliances are done... one less thing to worry about." That is the precise moment you are lulled into a false sense of security. The appliance salesmen promised you 2 things: The exact appliances you paid for... (which he will succeed at)... and the installation of those appliances... (which is the wild card that I am writing about). There are 3 words in the English language which instantaneously raise the hair on the back of my neck and induce an immediate surge of adrenaline. These 3 words, when used in a specific order, ignite my "fight or flight" response as I scan for an escape route. All of this happens in a tenth of a second... similar to when a wild boar lifts its head from a drinking hole and is staring at the face of a Komodo dragon. The 3 words are, "Appliance-Installer-

Subcontractor," meaning Best Buy or Home Depot hired some outside installation company that probably won't care as much as you would like them to. The final brush stroke of your masterpiece is about to look like the Hindenburg smashing into the Titanic. In the opinion of your appliance salesmen, the most important thing is to get you the appliances that you ordered. To Grace and I, the most important thing is that your appliances get installed without a hiccup. Your kitchen, in the final stage, hinges on a smooth appliance install, like a cherry strategically dropped on a sundae and slid across the counter for your enjoyment.

Appliance Install. It's appliance install day. Finally! You think, "I'm going to cook for the first time in 5 weeks." The appliance installers show up and you can hardly wait until they are finished, so you can get your first view of your completed kitchen. The anticipation is immense. You kill some time upstairs letting them do their thing... they should be about finished... you come down the stairs, take the corner to get your first glimpse of your masterpiece, and Voila!..... Hmmm... You see things are going a little slower than you expected. You turn to go back upstairs thinking, "Let's give it another half an hour," when one of the installers says, " We got the microwave installed but were unable to install these other 3, so if you could just initial this form for warranty purposes, we will be on our way." Dumbfounded, in a mild form of shock, sprinkled with anger and a dash of fear, you ask, "Why can't you install them?" He has been well trained and knows exactly what excuses, I mean reasons, to give you. No doubt, every excuse, I mean, reason, will point the finger directly at you know who... the infamous 'Contractor', Me. The stupid guy that should have known better. You you ask yourself, "If Bill does so many kitchens, why didn't he know about these variables that affect my install?" Let me say in my own defense, the installers had no intention of installing those appliances. In fact, they were surprised they couldn't find an excuse on the fourth one. Here's how their 'dog and pony' show works. For your refrigerator install, they will look at your ice maker line coming out of the wall. If it is copper, they will say 'we only install it if it's a plastic line.' If it's a plastic line, they will say 'we only install it if it's a copper line.' If the shutoff valve for that line is in the basement, they will say 'we only install it if the shutoff is behind the fridge.' If it is behind the fridge, they will say 'we only install it if it is in the basement.' We refer to this song and dance as the "can't win" or better known as the "you've got to

be kidding me, just my luck" routine. Then they will ask, "do you want us to push the fridge into place?" Surprised that they would ask such a stupid question, you reply, "why would you wrestle that monster into place, when someone is just going to have to wrestle it back out again to hook up the ice maker line?"

Of course, not all appliance companies run their businesses that way. Abt appliance is the exception to the rule. The 2 men that show up in the truck are employees, not subcontractors. They only get paid when they succeed. Their awesome truck is not just a delivery truck. It's a work truck with actual tools, miscellaneous parts and even a work bench, in case they have to fabricate something. They have everything they need to succeed. If their truck does not have a special fitting that is required, one guy will drive the big truck to the nearest hardware store to buy what they need. He'll be back, possibly with a burrito for his partner, along with traces of his burrito left on his face, and the parts required to keep the job rolling. They are the Mongoose of the animal kingdom and your appliances are the Cobra. It is a fight to the finish, and the Mongoose usually wins, but not always. The Cobra is lightning fast, with fangs and venom (your dishwasher). The Mongoose is tenacious and relentless (the Abt installer with his pliers). Yes the Cobra sometimes gets one too many strikes in, and the predator quickly becomes the prey... but they will send another installer equal to the task, who has no intention of conceding victory to the venomous serpent. Too dramatic?

Now let's talk about *your* installers (the none-Abt ones) who are about to show up. You were lucky enough to get all of your appliances installed for almost nothing, but by a subcontractor that may lack the motivation required to 'pull off' this delicate operation. It is well documented that I love animals, so since I had a mongoose playing the role of the Abt guy, let's stick with mammals to portray the guys that just pulled into your driveway. One of the men, the one in charge that just rang your doorbell is going to be "Tigger." You're probably thinking that's a "typo" and I spelled it wrong. That is unfortunately not a "typo", which completely changes the dynamics of what I am saying. What I'm saying is "Tigger" is at the front door and you need to answer it. You know... the one from "Winnie the Pooh." Not as scary as having a "Tiger" at the front door, right? You wish it was a fierce competitor like the Abt mongoose, but instead you got Tigger... And...Oh... look... There's a 2nd installer out at the truck. It's Eeyore

using the lift gate to lower your refrigerator.

Now, before you answer the door, run around the garage and peek in the back of their truck... I know what you're thinking... "It's not a work truck... it's not a work truck at all... it's just filled with appliances... where's the work bench?... where are all the tools?... all the fittings? all the shutoff valves? the saws to cut down the double oven cabinet? How will they succeed without being properly equipped so we can give them a big hug when they are finished?" News flash... They aren't there to succeed... They are the truck drivers equipped with nothing but the excuses necessary to drop those appliances off so they can move on to the next delivery. Side note: if Eeyore has plugged in a saw and is getting ready to cut down your $1,500 double-oven cabinet to receive your ovens, quickly ask him, "Do you measure twice and cut once ...or measure once and cut twice?" If he stares at you with a stoic face for longer than 3 seconds, pull the plug.

I remodeled my first kitchen about 30 years ago and since then, I have installed appliances, I have watched licensed plumbers and electricians install appliances, I have watched my meticulous father install appliances, and I have watched mongooses from Abt install appliances. Here is the truth: appliances are no easy task to install and it is a big mistake to take the install lightly. Some will go in easy, while others will require an "I am smarter than this machine… victory will be mine" attitude. There are hundreds of different models and every manufacturer has its own little twist on how it should be installed. From how to fasten the dishwasher to the cabinetry, to how to remove the doors on the refrigerator to get it through your front door. It will come down to this... Either the installers want to succeed or they don't. If they don't have the ambition, or they aren't up for the challenge, or they are behind schedule, they will start giving the excuses, I mean reasons, for why they can't do the install.

Here's the good news. That doesn't mean we have to lay down and play dead. We can attempt to beat them at their own game. I call it "The Ole Bait and Switch Counter Measure, Over My Dead Body, Now Get Back to Work" tactic, and it goes something like this… I give you a questionnaire to have your appliance salesperson fill out, armed with the stores 'top secret hand shake' information right there in black and white. All their little excuses, I mean reasons, I've heard over the past 30 years, consolidated into about ten questions that will bring down

their entire house of cards. As the salesperson reads it, they will look at you periodically wondering where you got this list from, as they realize their entire bag of tricks has been exposed. If they try to burn it, tell them we have copies. If they call the manager over, who asks how you obtained this document, play stupid and say "We found it in an alley." Then ask "Will this help to achieve a smooth install?" If they storm away, don't take it personally. It's just that they had 15 deliveries set up the same day as yours and weren't planning on actually installing any of them. With me knowing their every little trick, won't they be surprised when we boost "Tigger's" success rate to 75%? They won't know what hit 'em. You will have a beautiful kitchen that functions… Wait… You're thinking that success rate must be another typo. You are now doing some quick math in your head. Let's see… 4 appliances to be installed. 75% of 4… that leaves one appliance. What happened? Even with me knowing the secret hand shake, you will find "Tigger" is determined to get to the next delivery, and he's got one more maneuver in his arsenal. I call it "The Ole Doughnut Bushing" strategy, and they are instructed by management to only break it out if they are really behind schedule. It will go something like this: They are going to tell you that the remodeling contractor should have known that there needs to be a 'Doughnut Bushing' on the shutoff valve. Now… everyone knows there's no such thing as a Doughnut Bushing… It's code for "I hate my job and if I have to be here one more minute, I might slip into a self-induced coma". At this point, you may have to tip your hat and say "doughnut bushing?"..... Well played young man. You are a worthy adversary." The good news is, you got 'Tigger' to install 3 out of 4, and your salesmen will refund you the install fee for that fourth one. The bad news is, you will have to install it, or pay us to install it. Let's compare that to many of our customers who have been left with 4 appliances sitting in the middle of their kitchen. But who knows… maybe, just maybe, 'Tigger' came through installing all 4, and he and 'Eeyore' are riding off into the sunset.

This next item is a new addition to Affordable Kitchens and is working out very well with appliance installation. Many of our customers have used "MLK Installations" for their new appliance install. The owner's name is "Mike" and "MLK" is his initials. He will price match Abt's install prices. If you text him a photo of Abt's install price, he will text back a thumbs up, which means he will match their price and he will be there on the day that we need him. There are two advantages to using him. If we are ahead of schedule on the calendar we provide

you, and that happens a lot, Abt will not bump up your install date. This gentleman, "Mike", will come out whenever we ask him to. In other words, he will be there precisely when we need him, where as Abt has no flexibility. The second reason our customers have used him is because they may not have time to go all the way out to Abt and want to stay local. Or perhaps, they get a better package deal on the appliances from Best Buy. But then they remember Tigger. This appliance installer Mike bridges the gap so you don't have to be locked into Abt for your appliance purchase. Remember: "Mike" and his company is called "MLK Installations". His number is 630-697-1670. He is the best appliance installer in the Continental U.S. "Not sure about Alaska and Hawaii."

Our workers are at the ready, each guy grateful to have a job in this economy. Our specialty is not the spectacular 3D drawings, (obviously), or the polished sales approach, or our magnificent showroom. Our box trucks are ridiculously old and Bill could care less how he dresses for a design consultation, (though he should). Our specialty is production. Getting our workers, customers, and suppliers all heading in the right direction at the right time. I doubt you care if we pull up to your house with your new cabinets in a box truck with 230 thousand miles on it. We also know 3D drawings (if we bothered with them) aren't going to mean much when your kitchen starts. There's only one thing that matters. Production… and that is our specialty. Our guys are as Gung Ho and enthusiastic as Grace and I. We have no patience for lollygagging or negative attitudes that bring down the positive energy that is the backbone of a fun and healthy work environment. Our workers are upbeat and happy to be there. Our workers' happiness, our suppliers' happiness, and most importantly, our customers' happiness, is of the utmost importance to Grace and I, and you will see that from the moment we start your kitchen. We know this can all seem overwhelming, but we can help you navigate through all of your selections. Grace and I constantly strive for perfection and continually think of creative ways to bridge the communication between all of the different parties involved. Reading this "Let's Get Started" handout 2 or 3 times will help you tremendously. (My jokes are just as funny the third time). Knowledge, organization and communication are the keys to a smooth kitchen remodel. Kitchens are extremely complex and anything that can go wrong, will. Our references will agree that because we know kitchens

inside and out, we prevent almost every would-be problem before it occurs. Also, the excellent relationships we have with all of our workers and suppliers are apparent every day during your kitchen remodel, making it go as smoothly as possible. When you call our references, most of them will say it was not as "traumatic" as they thought it would be and some even found it enjoyable. There will be hiccups along the way. Your old kitchen will not go willingly. We will have to impose our will, gently pulling it into the 21st century. The hiccups will be small, and we will take care of them expeditiously. Our most important sales tool is our list of references. Call them. They will love to hear from you. You will not find one disparaging word on social media... or find any dissatisfied customer of ours. They simply don't exist. Our workers, my sister Grace, our suppliers, and myself are very appreciative to be working during these difficult times, and we do not take our customers for granted. This is a small group of people that work very hard to please every customer, ever time, to make your Dream Kitchen a reality.

We have about 300 photos on Facebook
@Affordable Kitchens Wheaton

Even if you are not on Facebook, you can still Google
Affordable Kitchens Wheaton and scroll down until you
see our Facebook page and click on it.
And then click on Photos



























We love “slide-in” Double Ovens




"Space "X" to Space Station III...
We have Lift Off."
"Not sure what your looking at
Delta Charlie... The Shuttle is still
at the launchpad"
"False alarm Space Station III...
Our radar detected a Microlaunch in
Lake Michigan.
Beginning launch sequence now.
10...9...8...7...6...5...


Keeping a look out above our store.
Shelby is the one next to "Baby Groot."









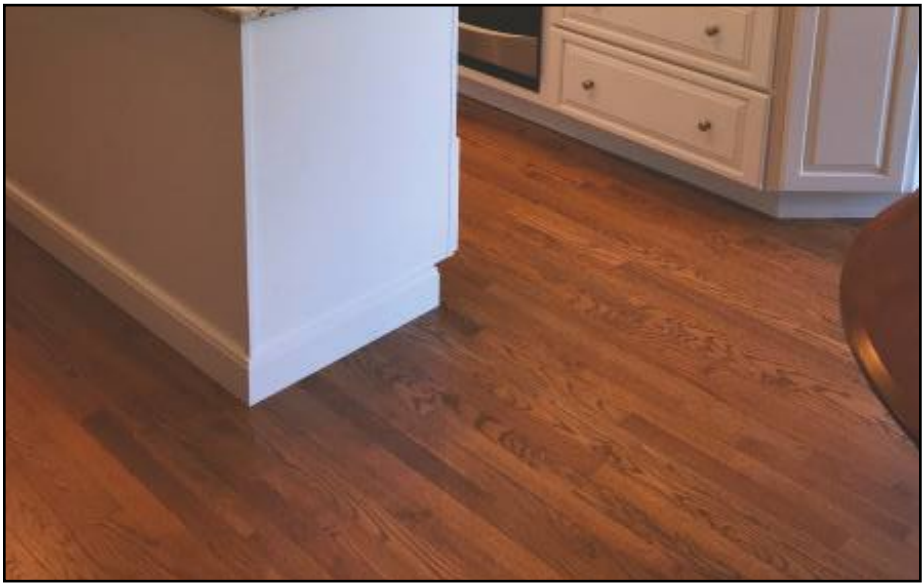


Notice the hood situation in these two pictures; The wall cabinet (above the stainless steel hood) is deeper than the flanking wall cabinets making it a more prominent feature. An extravagant custom wooden hood from our manufacturer starts at about $3,900. This alternative look in these photos show a $400 wall cabinet and a $700 hood, and in my opinion, look as good or better than a $3,900 custom wooden hood. Also, if you look at photos on Pinterest or Houzz of custom wooden hoods from the cabinet manufactures, you will notice they are always in 9 foot ceilings and never in 8 foot ceilings. Try to find a custom wooden hood, from a cabinet manufacturer, in a Houzz or Pinterest photo that has 8 foot ceilings.


YOU ARE
Fearfully
and
Wonderfully
MADE







These 2 pictures (on this page) are real oak floors that have been stained my 2 favorite colors. The top picture is Minwax brand, "Early American" and what I like most about it is that it has no red or yellow. Just a nice warm brown. The bottom picture is Minwax brand, "Special Walnut" and what I like most about it is that it presents itself darker than "Early American", but keeping some of the warm brown features without going too dark. The darker the floor, the more difficult to keep clean. "Special Walnut" is as dark as I would go. (The above picture of early American is not a good representation of it's true color. There is no orange in the true color).



The next four pictures are the vinyl plank floors
“That we love” and talk about previously in this booklet.





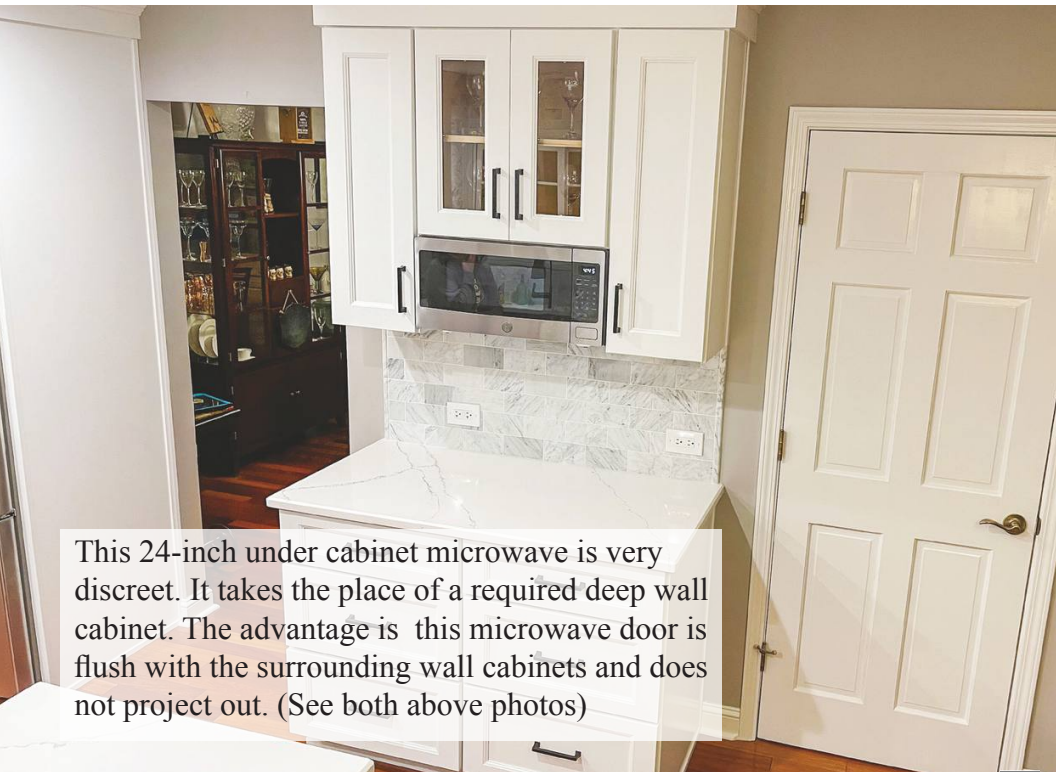





Building Wheaton 1 cabinet at a time.....
Seriously, that's all this will carry.
This ECO friendly transporter uses one twelfth the fuel of our box trucks....It does however require twelve trips to deliver a kitchen. (we think its a wash)
Only this cabinet transporter and our prices are small. Our kitchens are regular size.
If you see this driver drag racing, please contact Affordable Kitchens. This is not a toy.....Or is it?


No kitchen too small.
(must be bigger than this trailer)
No kitchen company delivers faster than Affordable Kitchens. Guaranteed... (unless they have a regular size transporter)
The 100th person to honk at this vehicle gets a free kitchen.
You are #99
How do we build kitchens faster than anyone else?
Reason #12: Our plumber works as fast as this car goes, and you know this car is fast. (Not to scare you but he does weigh more)





This 24-inch under cabinet microwave is very discreet. It takes the place of a required deep wall cabinet. The advantage is this microwave door is flush with the surrounding wall cabinets and does not project out. (See both above photos)





Frequently asked questions about Shelby:

Q: What does Shelby eat?

A: She eats regular dog food, but likes it when I mix in enough tuna so it doesn't taste like dog food.

Q: Is Shelby on a salary sitting in the showroom window or is she considered a subcontractor?

A: Shelby does not have to pay taxes, since we have her on a barter system that is commission based. For instance, if an unsuspecting pedestrian looks in the window and thinks "what a cute dog", then comes in to pet her and ends up buying a kitchen, I take her to chili's for a combo fajita.

Q: How fast is Shelby?

A: Are you familiar with Usain Bolt, the Olympic Gold Medal Sprinter from Brazil? Shelby is 4 miles an hour faster than him, due to the fact she has unusually long legs... and she has 4 of them.

Q: Is it true Cockapoos are known for their leaping ability throughout the poodle mixed breed population?

A: If that's true, thanks for the heads up. Good to know. I know her vertical is 46". In comparison, Michael Jordan's was 48" in his prime. (Keep in mind, Michael is 6'-6" tall. Shelby is 15".)

Q: Is it true Cockapoos are world renowned "frog hunters" and used in Whales, New Zealand and the South of France to control the frog population?

A: Not sure about that one. I have noticed when we hike along the banks of the DuPage River, her unusual technique for frog hunting is similar to that of a snow leopard, slowly crawling on her belly and then a sudden pounce. (This technique has not yet yielded a frog.)

Little Known Facts about Cockapoos

Cockapoos have an insatiable craving for bacon. We were informed of this when we purchased her as an 8 week old puppy. It completely slipped my mind until one day I passed her in the hallway with a piece of bacon in my pocket and she went completely crazy trying to tackle me. Lesson learned.

Cheetahs tails are up to 4 ft. long and used for balance when taking extreme corners to catch their prey. It is used like a rudder, helping them to steer and lean into a turn at a high rate of speed. Shelby uses her tail in the same fashion tracking field mice. Notice in the photograph, you can see her tail is quite a bit shorter than 4 feet, more like 1.5 inches, but you get the idea.



If you see Shelby sitting in the window of the showroom, please don't steal her. The maximum ransom we will pay for her is ~~$200,000.~~ 1 Million dollars.

If all went well with the kitchen, I will probably run into you at the MARIANO'S in Wheaton. If it didn't, that's me hiding in the deli.

We have about 300 pictures of our completed kitchens on Facebook @ Affordable Kitchens Wheaton

- Bill

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