

Thinking about painting your cabinets? Read this first.

A dated kitchen doesn't always need a renovation. If your cabinets are solid and the layout works, a professional enamel finish gives you the transformation without the demo, the dust, or weeks without a kitchen. Here's what to expect, what to consider, and the questions worth asking — whoever you end up hiring.

Three ways to change your cabinets

Replace

All-new cabinets. The right call when the layout changes or the boxes are failing — and the longest, most disruptive route.

Reface

New doors and drawer fronts over your existing boxes. A middle path when the doors are worn but the boxes are sound.

Refinish — what we do

Your existing doors and frames, professionally prepped and sprayed with a cabinet-grade enamel. The least disruption, and usually the smartest money when the bones are good.

What the process actually looks like

- 1 Consultation & color.** We look at your cabinets' condition and talk color — samples go on a real door, never judged from a swatch alone.
- 2 Doors & drawers come off.** They're finished right at your home, in a protected finishing area we set up on site. Your kitchen stays a kitchen, not a workshop.
- 3 Frames are prepped & finished on site** — degreased, sanded, primed, and sprayed where they stand.
- 4 Doors are spray-finished on site** with Sherwin-Williams Gallery Series — an enamel made specifically for cabinets: hard, smooth, and scrub-able.
- 5 Everything goes back together.** Doors rehung, hardware on, and a final walkthrough together.

How long? An average kitchen takes 4–7 days. Your fridge and microwave stay usable the whole time, and most families cook at home through most of it — plan a couple of easy dinners and you're set.

Things to consider before you decide

- **The bones decide.** Solid wood doors refinish beautifully. Peeling thermofoil, swollen particleboard, or water-damaged boxes may not be worth saving — an honest painter will tell you that up front, even if it costs him the job.
- **Color is a commitment.** White is timeless and shows every fingerprint; deeper colors hide everyday life better and make a statement. Live with your sample in morning and evening light before you commit.
- **Hardware is a design decision.** New pulls are the cheapest upgrade in the whole project — but hole spacing matters. Decide before the doors are finished, not after.
- **Insides are optional.** Most kitchens keep the cabinet interiors as they are. Painting inside the boxes is possible; it adds time, and it's far easier planned from day one.
- **Order of operations.** Painting cabinets usually comes easier before new countertops or backsplash. If the counters go in first, make sure they're protected from the work.
- **Staying or selling?** A refinished kitchen photographs beautifully and shows like new cabinets — one of the highest-return updates you can make before a listing.

Do this

- Judge color from a sample painted on an actual door
- Ask exactly which product will be sprayed — and why
- Ask who does the work: the company's own crew, or whoever was available?
- Set up a small coffee-and-breakfast station outside the kitchen for the week

Skip this

- Judging color from a photo on your phone
- Ordinary wall paint on cabinets — it stays soft and peels at the edges
- Booking on the lowest number alone — with cabinets, the prep is the product
- Picking new hardware after the doors come back

Five questions to ask any cabinet painter

- What product do you spray on the doors — and is it made for cabinets?
- Where exactly are the doors finished — and how do you protect the rest of my home while you spray?
- What does your prep process look like before anything is sprayed?
- Who will actually be in my home each day?
- What does the finish warranty cover — in writing?

Good painters welcome these questions. Hesitation is an answer, too.

In the southwest Twin Cities metro?

Schedule your **FREE consultation** — we'll look at your cabinets and give you a straight opinion, even if it's "don't paint them."

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