



## **DID YOU KNOW? – MAY 2009**

**This month includes:**

- **Custom, Semi-Custom & Stock Cabinet Differences**
- **Second Life for Your Old Cabinets**
- **Wood-Mode Cabinetry Summer Savings Event**

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### **Custom, Semi-Custom & Stock Cabinets – What is the Difference?**

Updating kitchen and bathroom cabinetry continues to be an excellent way to improve your home's value and appearance. Cabinets are available in a wide assortment of styles, woods, and finishes. They also come in a range of prices, providing options that fit the budget of every remodeling project. When planning a kitchen or bathroom renovation, cabinet options, construction, and pricing need to be considered to make the best investment for your home. To help you understand the differences in cabinets, the following is a brief summary that explains the characteristics of custom, semi-custom, and stock cabinetry.

**Custom Cabinets** give you the greatest number of options for your remodeling project. An almost endless number of choices allow the bath or kitchen design to be limited only by your imagination. Custom cabinets provide unique products not typically available in semi-custom or stock cabinetry.

Current design trends make cabinets resemble furniture. The picture on the right shows a refrigerator designed to look like an armoire. Custom cabinets can be designed and configured to “create” furniture, match existing designs and colors, or fit unique sizes. Regarding cabinet construction, custom cabinets typically have plywood boxes, solid wood face frames/doors/drawerheads, maple dovetail drawer construction, and soft close hardware. The finishes can involve up to 25 steps to prepare, stain, and seal the wood for a lasting finish.



From a cost perspective, custom cabinets are the most expensive. However, the higher cost provides the most product and design options, an extremely high level of quality, and usually hand-rubbed finishes.

**Semi-Custom Cabinets** also come in a wide variety of styles and options. While not as adaptable as the custom offerings, they still offer a wide range of choices to meet the needs of most home remodeling projects. Features

standard on custom cabinets are often options, with additional cost, on semi-custom cabinets.



Construction for semi-custom cabinet boxes may utilize furniture board or plywood, depending on the manufacturer and their options. Face frames, doors, and drawerheads are typically solid wood. Drawers are usually made from solid maple and joined with dovetail joints. Delivery times for semi-custom products are shorter than custom, allowing faster completion of home improvement projects.

Overall, semi-custom products provide a substantial number of options and choices, but at a lower cost than custom cabinets.

**Stock Cabinets** allow homeowners to add value without spending a significant amount of money. Stock cabinets come in a variety of door styles, wood choices and finishes. However, the selection is not as wide as custom, or semi-custom lines. A more limited choice of cabinets will reduce the amount of customization, or unique elements of an interior design project. Similar to comments above, features that are standard on custom or semi-custom lines are often an upcharge on stock cabinets. Depending on the project, semi-custom cabinets may be cheaper than stock cabinets if a number of options are chosen.

While construction of stock cabinet boxes is similar, the materials may be slightly thinner (1/2" versus 3/4") or use a different material. Face frames and drawerheads are still primarily made from solid wood. Doors are usually solid wood, but not always depending on the manufacturer. Solid maple drawer boxes with dovetail joints are typically an option. Finishes are applied in fewer steps on a production line.

The mass-production, standard sizes, and limited number of styles make stock cabinets an excellent low cost option.

If you have cabinet questions or are considering a home remodeling project, The KitchenWright would be happy to help answer your questions. Our Carmel showroom has examples of custom, semi-custom and stock cabinets to show the differences discussed above.

## Second Life for Your Old Cabinets

We are all concerned with making wise choices for the environment. In remodeling projects, the old cabinets can find new life in the basement, garage workshop, or a number of places in the home. However, there are situations where old cabinets are thrown away, ending up in the landfill. To help minimize the environmental impact, The KitchenWright is partnering with Habitat for Humanity's Indianapolis Indiana ReStore. For any kitchen/bath remodeling project performed by The KitchenWright, we will take reusable, old cabinets to Habitat's ReStore for resale. The benefits are threefold: 1) the cabinets stay out of landfills, a more environmentally-friendly outcome, 2) proceeds from their sale at the ReStore help fund building homes for disadvantaged families, and 3) a tax deduction is available to the homeowner, reducing the cost of the remodeling project. Everybody wins.

## Wood Mode Summer Savings Event

The KitchenWright is happy to announce that through July 2009, Wood-Mode and Brookhaven Cabinetry are reducing, or eliminating premiums on a variety of door and drawerhead options. The Summer Savings Event will help stretch your budget for the kitchen, bath, or home office project you are planning, allowing you to enjoy the beauty and quality of America's leading brand of fine custom cabinetry at exceptional savings.

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We hope you find our newsletter helpful. If you have any questions or would like to talk about a kitchen or bath redesign, please give us a call (317-848-1111), stop by our showroom in Carmel Indiana, or send us an email at [info@theKitchenWright.com](mailto:info@theKitchenWright.com)