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WALL FIXINGS

Fitting cupboards to the wall can be a worry to the beginner. Using the correct tools, fixings and common sense can alleviate much of the stress and leave a cupboard on the wall and problem free for many years to come. It goes without saying to check for pipes cables etc before you drill.

GENERAL

Wall fixings can be divided into two categories when fitting a kitchen: the wall cupboards and the base cupboards. While base cupboards are never going to fall off the wall it is always nice to know that you have fitted them properly. Wall cupboards however, are potentially dangerous if not fitted with the correct fixing and extra attention should be paid to selecting the right fixing for your type of wall. The following are the fixings I choose to fit cupboards and to date I have never had a cupboard fall off!

TOOLS REQUIRED

As with most tasks, a good tool will make the job easier and depending on the construction of your wall you will need some or all of the following.

The usual measuring and marking tools including a long spirit level
SDS or Hammer drill (for solid walls)
Extension lead
Battery screwdriver
Selection of wood and masonry drill bits to suit raw plugs
Short screwdriver
Cable & pipe detector

BASE CUPBOARDS

Most base cupboards are fitted to the wall by a small angle bracket attached to the side of the cupboard then fixed to the wall. It is not necessary to fit a bracket to every side of every cupboard but you will need to decide how many and where you need to fit them. The base units should all be secured to the wall before the worktop is added, then when the worktop is fitted and screwed on it will give extra stability all round.

With the base units in position, mark through the centre of the bracket hole onto the wall to give the drilling mark. Unscrew and remove the bracket to allow access to drill the hole into the wall. If the wall is solid, drill the hole into the wall at a slight downward angle, this will make it easier to fit the screw afterwards, as space is limited. For plasterboard walls the fitting will need to be fitted as usual and you may need a short screwdriver to tighten the screw if the back rail of the cupboard is in the way.

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BASE CUPBOARDS

Fixings for base units need to be secure but it is not necessary to add expense by using superior fittings to hold them in position. I recommend brown plastic rawplugs, (18493 www.Screwfix.com) for solid walls and plastic Fischer plugs (81946 www.screwfix.com) for plasterboard walls. Use 4x40mm screws for both types.

For information on solid and plasterboard walls please see http://www.plasplugs.com/fixings_hollow.html for hollow walls http://www.plasplugs.com/fixings_solid.html for solid walls

Once the holes are drilled into the wall, fit the plug so that it sits flush with the surface. Screw the bracket to the wall and then screw the bracket back on to the cupboard.

WALL CUPBOARDS

Having marked the positions for the holes as described in the book, the next task is to attach the hanging brackets to the wall. Most wall cupboards are supplied with screws and wall plugs for solid walls. If these are not available I recommend blue plastic rawplugs, (11793 www.screwfix.com) and 5x60mm screws to secure them. For solid walls, use the centre punch to give the drill a good start. Drill the hole at a slight downward angle; this will give further strength to the fixing. Tap the rawplug into the hole until it is flush with the surface of the wall and then screw the bracket on. A good battery screwdriver will be invaluable here as fitting lots of brackets can take much effort with a manual screwdriver.

For plasterboard walls I recommend (33559 www.screwfix.com) plasterboard anchor. To use these anchors, simply drill the recommended size hole and push the anchor into it. Place the bracket in position and tighten the screw until it is secure, make sure the lugs of the anchor grab into the plasterboard. Also see instructional diagram at the Screwfix website for this part.

The above information is for walls that are in good condition. If you feel your walls are not suitable for the above fixings please contact me and I will endeavour to provide a solution.