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WALL FIXINGS

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 as the worktop tends to do that once fitted. 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.

If you are in any doubt as to the strength of the fixing you can always fit small L shaped brackets below the cupboard and screw them to the wall. They can be covered over later with tiles or whatever wall decoration you will be using. If you are in still more doubt you can fit a small square batten along the length of the bottom of the wall units for the wall units to sit on. Bear in mind that you probably won't be able to tile over it so make sure it is a nice looking batten and preferably hard wood.

The above information is for walls that are in good condition.

There are many ways to fit brackets to walls either solid or plasterboard, not all of them are conventional but the following are some of them;

Plasterboard walls.

Plasterboard is generally nailed in sheets to wooden joists that run vertically down the wall. If you want a really secure fitting then a way to do it is to cut a section of the plasterboard away between the joists in the area or area you want to hang the cupboard. Then nail or screw a length of 2x4 timber horizontally between the joists and either put the plasterboard back or cut a new piece. Once that is done it is a simple job to screw the brackets through the plasterboard into the 2x4 behind.

Lathe and Plaster.

The above method is probably the best method as lathe and plaster is an old way of having a plastered wall and probably not in good enough condition for standard fixings.

Block Walls

Most block walls should be in good enough condition for standard fixings but some are made from hollow blocks. If this is the case the easiest method is to drill a hole, 10mm is enough, and hammer some tapered wood into it. The bracket can then be screwed into the wood in a similar manner to a raw plug. Obviously, don't make the tapered wood too long so that it comes through the other side of the block.

If your walls is not one mentioned here please feel free to email me at stevlake@diykitchenfitting.co.uk and I will endeavour to help.