

Cabinet Doors

Measuring

Instructions

See our instructions below to measure for custom cabinet doors before placing your order. Instructions include technical examples to help guide the process.

[Get a Doors Quote](#)

Accurate measurements are essential when ordering [custom cabinet doors](#) and drawer fronts. This guide walks you through the most common measuring methods for overlay and inset cabinet doors, whether you're replacing existing doors or measuring cabinet openings for new installations. Step-by-step instructions, formulas, and worked examples will help you determine the correct door sizes before placing your order.

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- [Measuring Overlay Cabinet Doors](#)
- [Measuring Inset Cabinet Doors](#)
- [Cabinet Measuring FAQ](#)

The Difference Between Inset and Overlay Cabinet Doors

Before measuring, identify whether your cabinets use an [overlay or inset design](#). Overlay cabinet doors extend past the cabinet opening, while inset cabinet doors sit flush within the

opening. Because each uses a different sizing method, it's important to identify your cabinet type before taking measurements.



H3: Cabinet Door Overlay

Cabinet door overlay is the distance a cabinet door extends past the cabinet opening. The overlay determines the finished door size and helps determine the appropriate hinge configuration.

- **Partial Overlay:** Typically use a 1/2" overlay, leaving about 1" of the face frame exposed around doors and drawer fronts. This configuration commonly uses a 1/2" concealed overlay hinge.
- **Full Overlay:** Typically use a 1-1/4" overlay, leaving about 1/4" of the face frame exposed. This configuration is commonly paired with a 1-1/4" concealed overlay hinge.

H3 Inset Cabinet Doors

Inset cabinet doors sit flush within the cabinet opening rather than extending past it. Because there is no overlay, inset cabinet doors are measured directly from the cabinet opening, allowing for the required clearance (1/8" gap around all sides).

Measuring Overlay Cabinet Doors & Drawer Fronts

Step 1: Identify Your Overlay Type

Partial Overlay (Using 1/2" Overlay)



- Appearance: Leaves about 1" of the face frame exposed around doors and drawers.
- Hinge Needed: 1/2" concealed overlay hinge.

Full Overlay (Using 1-1/4" Overlay)



- Appearance: Leaves about 1/4" of the face frame exposed.

- Hinge Needed: 1-1/4" concealed overlay hinge.

Not sure what overlay your cabinets use?

If you're replacing existing cabinet doors and aren't sure what overlay your cabinets use, measure the existing overlay before calculating your new door size.

1. Close the cabinet door.
2. Place masking tape vertically along the edge of the closed door on the face frame.
3. Open the door.
4. Measure from the inside edge of the tape to the edge of the cabinet opening.
5. That measurement is your cabinet door overlay.

Step 2: Choose Your Measuring Method

Decide whether you'll measure the existing cabinet doors or the cabinet openings. The correct method depends on your project and whether you're keeping the existing overlay and hinge configuration.

<u>Option 1: Measure Existing Cabinet Doors or Drawer Fronts</u>	<u>Option 2: Measure Cabinet Openings</u>
Best if: • Replacing existing cabinet doors or drawer fronts • Keeping the same overlay and hinge configuration • Existing doors fit correctly	Best if: • Building new cabinetry • Replacing missing doors • Changing the overlay or hinge configuration

Option 1: Measuring Existing Doors or Drawer Fronts:

Step 1. Open the cabinet door or drawer front.

Step 2. Measure from the backside (to the nearest 1/16"):

- Width: Measure edge to edge
- Height: Measure edge to edge

OPTION 1

MEASURING EXISTING DOORS OR DRAWER FRONTS

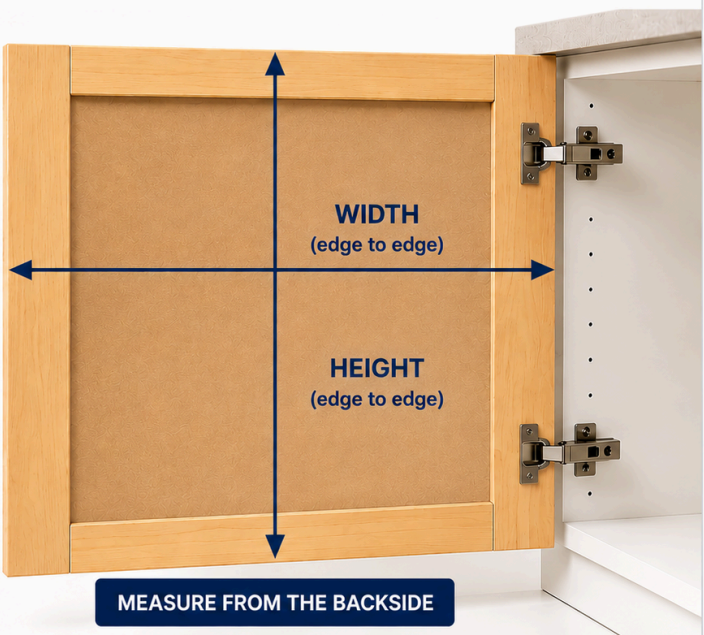


STEP 1
OPEN THE DOOR OR DRAWER FRONT.



STEP 2
MEASURE FROM THE BACKSIDE.
Measure from the backside (to the nearest 1/16"):

- **Width:** Measure edge to edge
- **Height:** Measure edge to edge



WIDTH
(edge to edge)

HEIGHT
(edge to edge)

MEASURE FROM THE BACKSIDE



NOTE: Accurate measurements ensure proper alignment with existing cabinets and hinges.

Option 2: Measuring Cabinet Openings

Step 1: Measure the Cabinet Opening (to the nearest 1/16")

- Width: Measure from the left and right inside edges of the cabinet opening.

- Height: Measure from the top and bottom inside edges of the cabinet opening.

OPTION 2

MEASURING CABINET OPENINGS

Follow these steps to measure your cabinet opening and calculate the correct door size.

STEP 1 MEASURE THE CABINET OPENING

(to the nearest 1/16")



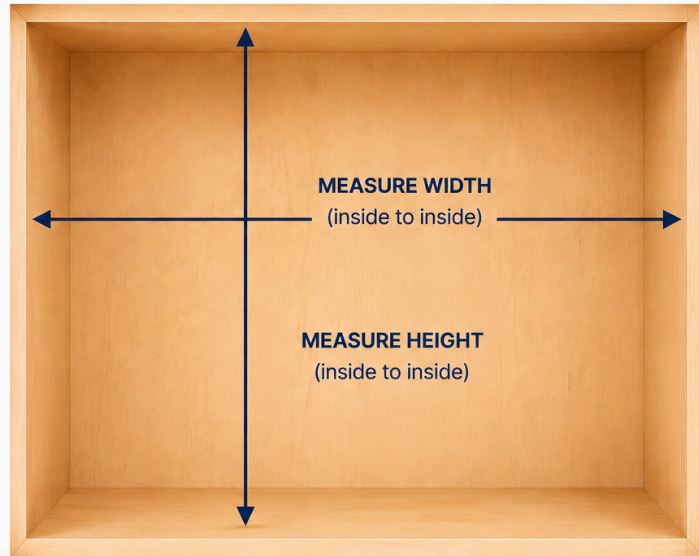
WIDTH:

Measure from the left and right inside edges of the cabinet opening.



HEIGHT:

Measure from the top and bottom inside edges of the cabinet opening.



Step 2: Calculate Finished Door Size with Overlay

- **For Partial Overlay (1/2"):**
 - Add 1" to both width and height (1/2" overlay on each side).
- **For Full Overlay (1-1/4"):**
 - Add 2-1/2" to both width and height (1-1/4" overlay on each side).

For a **single door**, the door's width and height will be the width or height of your opening plus twice the overlay:

- width/height = opening + (overlay x 2)

For **split (or double) doors**—2 doors on 1 opening—the overlay is only on the edges facing the frame. The doors are separated by the center reveal which is typically 1/8". To calculate your door width take the opening plus twice the overlay, subtract .1/8" (for the reveal), and divide by 2. The height is the same as with a single door.

- width = (opening + (overlay x 2) - 1/8")/2
- height = opening + (overlay x 2)

Use the worked examples below to calculate the finished door size for your selected overlay.

Example Calculations for Overlay Doors

Overlay Type	Door Configuration	Cabinet Opening	Finished Door Size
Partial Overlay (1/2")	Single Door	15" W × 27" H	Door Width: 15" + (1/2" x 2) = 16" Door Height: 27" + (1/2" x 2) = 28"
Partial Overlay (1/2")	Split Doors	30" W × 27" H	Door Widths: (30" + (1/2" x 2) - 1/8") / 2 = 15-7/16" Door Heights: 27" + (1/2" x 2) = 28"
Full Overlay (1-1/4")	Single Door	12" W × 24" H	Door Width: 12" + (1-1/4" x 2) = 14-1/2" Door Height: 24" + (1-1/4" x 2) = 26-1/2"

Full Overlay (1-1/4")	Split Doors	30" W × 24" H	Door Widths: $(30" + (1-1/4" \times 2) - 1/8") / 2 = 16-3/16"$ Door Heights: $24" + (1-1/4" \times 2) = 26-1/2"$
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Additional Tips for Measuring Overlay Doors

- **Customize Overlay:** Adjust calculations if you prefer a different overlay size.
- **Applicable to Drawer Fronts:** Use the same instructions for measuring drawer fronts.
- **Precision Matters:** Always measure to the nearest **1/16"**.
- **Double-Check Measurements:** Ensure all measurements are accurate for a perfect fit.

Measuring Inset Cabinet Doors & Drawer Fronts



Inset cabinet doors are designed to sit flush within the cabinet frame opening, so no overlay calculation is required. Instead, measure the cabinet opening and subtract the required clearance to determine the finished door size.

Step 1: Measure the Cabinet Opening

- **Width:** Measure the inside width of the cabinet opening from the left inside edge to the right inside edge.
- **Height:** Measure the inside height from the top inside edge to the bottom inside edge.
- Record each measurement to the nearest **1/16"**

MEASURING CABINET OPENINGS

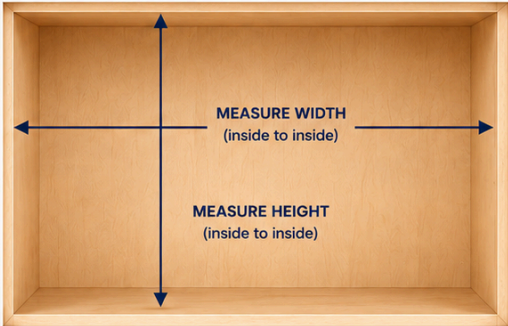
Follow these steps to measure your cabinet opening and calculate the correct door size.

STEP 1 MEASURE THE CABINET OPENING

**WIDTH:** Measure from the left and right inside edges of the cabinet opening.

**HEIGHT:** Measure from the top and bottom inside edges of the cabinet opening.

**PRECISION:** Measure to the nearest 1/16".



Step 2: Subtract the Required Clearance

To allow for a **1/8" gap** on all sides of the door, ensuring proper clearance and operation:

- Subtract **1/4"** from the total **width** measurement (1/8" for each side).
 - Door Width = Opening Width – 1/4"
- Subtract **1/4"** from the total **height** measurement (1/8" for each side).
 - Door Height = Opening Height – 1/4"

Example Calculation for Inset Doors

- **Cabinet Opening Measurement:**
 - Width: **16"**

- Height: **34"**
- **Calculation:**
 - **Door Width:** 16" (opening width) – (1/8" x 2) = **15 3/4"**
 - **Door Height:** 34" (opening height) – (1/8" x 2) = **33 3/4"**
- **Result:**
 - **Inset Cabinet Door Size:** 15-3/4" Width x 33-3/4" Height

Ordering Online is Easy

You can order [custom cabinet doors](#) and drawer fronts directly through our online form. After you submit your quote request, our team will review your order details and contact you if any clarification is needed before production.

[Get a Doors Quote](#)

Cabinet Measuring FAQ

How do I determine which cabinet hinges I need?

At Eagle Woodworking, adding cabinet door hinges to your order is simple. Tell us your cabinet construction type and door overlay style, and we'll recommend the appropriate hinge boring setup and cabinet door hinges for your project. For more information, you can view our [Door Hinges Guide](#).

Can I customize the overlay on my cabinet doors?

Yes. If you prefer a different overlay than your existing cabinets, adjust your calculations using the desired overlay measurement. Be sure your hinge selection matches the new overlay.

Do these measuring instructions also apply to drawer fronts?

Yes. The same measuring methods and overlay calculations apply when measuring replacement drawer fronts.

What's the difference between overlay and inset cabinet doors?

Overlay cabinet doors extend past the cabinet opening, while inset cabinet doors sit flush within the cabinet frame opening. Because they use different sizing methods, be sure to identify your cabinet style before measuring.

Where can I learn more about Eagle Woodworking's cabinet door options?

Review our [Cabinet Doors Product Guide](#) to compare door styles, wood species, construction options, edge profiles, finishes, and customization features before placing your order.