Removable Kitchen Base Cabinets

1. No special tools or knowledge shall be required.
2. Exposed finishes behind and to the side of the removed cabinets are to match the adjacent wall or cabinet surfaces with no additional work required.
3. Cabinet doors with attached toe kicks are not recommended, since the attached toe kicks can protrude into the knee and toe clearance.
4. Instructions for removable cabinetry shall be included in the reasonable accommodation instruction manual. An example reasonable accommodation manual can be found at: [http://sfgov.org/mod/inspection-resources](http://sfgov.org/mod/inspection-resources)

### Criteria for Removable Cabinets

- **Work surface height:** To be 34" or repositionable.
- **Counter / work surface height:** To be 34" or repositionable.
- **Requirement:** To match cabinet face and finished wall to finished floor measured from the bottom of the sink apron to finished floor.
- **Clearance:** To be 27" min. clearance.

### Removable Kitchen Base Cabinets

- **Removable Kitchen Base Cabinets - Example:**
  - **Cabinet box or front:** To be removable without changing countertop.
  - **Rear & side surfaces:** To be finished.
  - **Flooring:** To continue under removable cabinet to wall.
  - **No sharp or abrasive surfaces:** Baseboard and finished wall to match adjacent.

### Kitchen Toe & Knee Clearances

- **Toe clearance:** To extend to any controls.
- **Knee & toe clearance:** Begins at edge of countertop.
- **Required slope of knee clearance:** To extend 4".

### Sink and Lavatory Definitions

- **Sink:** A fixed bowl or basin with running water and drainpipe, as in a kitchen or laundry, for washing dishes, clothing, etc.
- **Lavatory:** A fixed bowl or basin with running water and drainpipe, as in a toilet or bathing facility, for washing or bathing purposes.

### Residential Dwelling Unit Terminology

- **Mobility Unit:** Residential dwelling unit per 11B-233.3.1.1 providing mobility features complying with Sections 11B-809.2 through 11B-809.4.
- **Adaptable Unit:** Residential dwelling unit per 11B-233.3.1.2. providing adaptable accessibility features as required by Sections 11B-233.3.1.2.1 through 11B-233.3.1.2.6.
- **Communication Unit:** Residential dwelling unit per 11B-233.3.1.3. providing communication features complying with Section 11B-809.5.

### References

- 2019 California Building Code (CBC)
- 2010 ADO Standards (ADAS)

### Purpose

This bulletin illustrates requirements for removable kitchen cabinets at sinks and work spaces, and removable cabinets at lavatories.

For more information visit the Mayor’s Office on Disability (MOD) website: sfgov.org/mod
Removable Cabinet at Lavatory

Bracket is to provide all required toe and knee clearances when:

- Used as part of turning space.
- Used as part of clearance at water closet.
- Clear width between brackets is less than 30".

Finished cabinet end panel to match cabinet face.

Coordinate elements to avoid conflicts between grab bar, countertop, and backsplash.

Bracket must not encroach into the required knee and toe clearances.

Required clear floor space for water closet permitted to overlap vanity or washbowl sink.

Remaining space is acceptable, but can not be counted as toe clearance.

All exposed drain & supply pipes to be insulated.

Coordinate elements to avoid conflicts between grab bar, countertop, and backsplash.

Finished cabinet end panel to match cabinet face.

Required clear floor space for water closet permitted to overlap vanity or washbowl sink.

Bracket must not encroach into the required knee and toe clearances.

Removable Cabinet at Lavatory - Examples

Cabinet box or front (shown dashed) to be removable without changing countertop.

Flooring continues to rear wall.

30" min. clear (36" cabinet recommended).

Open knee clearance (front approach).

Knee clearance slopes from 20° to 27° at rear of 6" depth.

Minimum Knee & Toe Clearance Dimensions

Maximum Knee & Toe Clearance Dimensions

Additional clearance required at lavatories.

Required slope of knee clearance.

Lavatory Toe and Knee Clearance Requirements

Removable Cabinet at Lavatory

Not to Scale

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