

THE ESSENTIALS...

Basic cupboard materials

MFC (MELAMINE FACED CHIPBOARD)
The standard board used in entry-level kitchens, MFC is inexpensive but strong. Its chipboard core is made from scrap-wood materials, including sawdust and paper, glued together with melamine resin. Faced in a melamine laminate, the carcass surface is antifungal, easy to clean and moisture-resistant – the chipboard core will expand and 'blow' if water gets into it.

MDF (MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD)
MDF is another popular mass-produced board. Made from felted wood fibres bonded under high pressure, it's considered superior to chipboard and so is marginally more expensive. It's stronger, denser and has a smoother, more moisture-resistant edge when cut, suitable for a variety of finishes.

MFMDF (MELAMINE FACED MDF)
MFC with an MDF core, so slightly more expensive.

TIMBER FACED MDF OR CHIPBOARD
To achieve the beauty of real wood without fear of warping, a thin veneer of timber – often to match

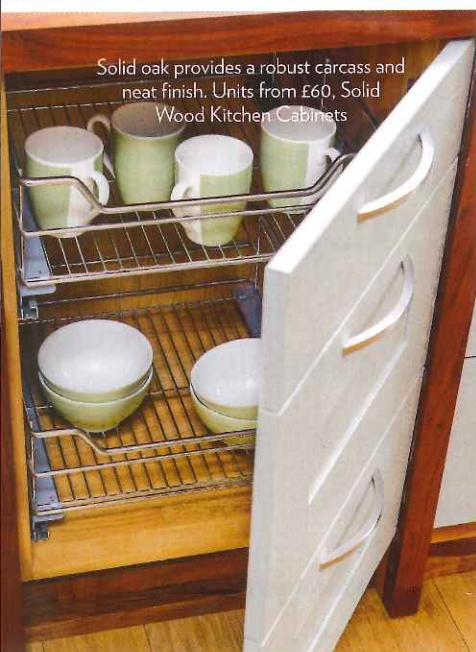
doors – is applied on one or both sides of MDF or chipboard to look like a single piece of wood.

PLYWOOD
This is a premium sheet material made from layers of hardwood that's most frequently used by bespoke makers. It's incredibly stable and solid, but weight can be an issue on wall-hung cupboards. Marine-grade or MR (moisture resistant) ply is a good option if your house is built on a flood plain. It is usually faced in oak or birch but can also be painted or laminated.

SOLID WOOD
Single planks are not the most practical choice for carcasses as they can warp over time. Quality solid-wood carcasses are made from multi-stave boards, which are narrow strips or 'staves' of wood jointed together to prevent flexing. Carcass edges can be sanded flat so edging strips aren't required.



Made from 18mm MFC in white gloss with aluminium edging, these carcasses are perfect for Metris's modern handleless units, from £20,000



Solid oak provides a robust carcass and neat finish. Units from £60. Solid Wood Kitchen Cabinets



Woodstock Furniture's MDF carcasses are spray painted to match the splashbacks. Kitchens from £30,000



Rich walnut veneer with a satin lacquer finish creates a luxury interior. Cue & Co bespoke kitchens, from £36,000