

## Classic Shaker Doors

### What Are Shaker Style Cabinets?

Shaker kitchen cabinets are a popular trend in current kitchen renovations because of the timeless and simple look they give to either a traditional or contemporary design. The return to simplicity is one of the reasons why Shaker style cabinet doors are so popular in every design circle. The most basic shaker style cabinet door is a five-piece door with a recessed center panel and no additional edge detailing. The five-piece doors combined with five-piece drawer fronts create a finished look. Since Shaker doors work well with traditional, transitional, and even contemporary designs, the flat panel cabinet doors are also highly favored. The cabinetry styles for Shaker doors include inset, standard, and full overlay options providing an unbroken emphasis on craftsmanship.

- **Inset:** Inset cabinetry offers sleek lines, flush inset cabinet doors and features that can transform the look of a standard cabinet with a full overlay door. With an inset cabinet style, the doors and drawers rest inside of the cabinet face frame openings.
- **Standard:** The cabinet door and drawer faces are slightly larger than the openings, and slightly overlap the face frame. Standard overlays offer reveals if on the face frame and are more forgiving with door and drawer alignments.
- **Full:** The door and drawer faces are larger than the openings and overlap the face frame, leaving only a small visible reveal.

### Why Is It Called Shaker Cabinetry?

Shaker style cabinets were originally built by the Shaker religious community predominantly during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Guiding principles of the Shaker religion included simplicity, utility, and honesty. The simplicity and utility aspects of these principles were readily apparent in their hand-made, wooden furniture.

The Shaker design tends to avoid any flourishes of style, but rather in favor of simple and functional aesthetics. The simple and clean lines of Shaker cabinets lend themselves to placement in modern or contemporary kitchen designs, despite their traditional origin.

### Are Shaker Cabinets in Style?

Shaker kitchen cabinets are gaining popularity due to their clean lines and classic look. Shaker cabinets are often a natural wood finish or stained to bring out the natural wood hues in darker colors. Gray or white shaker cabinets are also prevalent in modern kitchens as they give off a light and inviting feel that many contemporary spaces pursue.

- **Modern Shaker Style Kitchens:** The modern kitchen designer appreciates Shaker-style cabinetry because it is clean and uncluttered. The doors can be left plain, or cabinet hardware may be added, depending on a home-owners preference. While finished wood adds warmth to modern kitchens, Shaker cabinets look just as attractive painted black, white, gray, navy, and more. If you like the modern look of cabinets that boast beautiful dark wood grains, ask to see samples of Shaker cabinet doors made from ash or walnut.

- **Transitional Shaker Kitchens:** Transitional kitchen designers often select Shaker-style cabinets because they help to create the “transition” between traditional and modern kitchen elements. While a Shaker enthusiast may balk at any changes made to this traditionally pure cabinetry style, contemporary shaker cabinets can also be made with a slightly beveled edge. It’s a very small design difference, but that little extra adornment will also help to keep your kitchen from sliding into the modern design category.
- **Traditional Shaker Style Kitchens:** Even traditional kitchens can use this clean design style in their design. That beveled edge will help to keep the look more traditional, as will a lighter wood finish or a paint color from a farmhouse or country kitchen palette, especially with a distressed cabinet glaze. Choosing antique or eclectic drawer and door hardware will also help to add that traditional feel to your cabinets.

