

6 Reasons DIY Cabinet Painting Doesn't Last

1. Kitchen Cabinets Need a Different Approach Than Walls

Most cabinets come from the factory with a hard finish designed to resist moisture, grease, and daily cleaning. Standard paint may not bond well, even after light sanding, and each cabinet material reacts differently to paint.





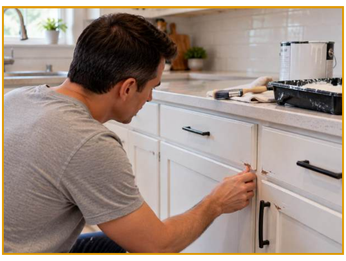
2. Invisible Grease Kills Adhesion

Kitchens generate airborne grease from cooking, and that grease deposits onto cabinets that look perfectly clean. A thin film is enough to compromise adhesion before a single coat of paint goes on, so peeling starts around handles and hinges.

3. Brush Marks, Orange Peel, and Dust in the Finish

A brush leaves visible stroke marks, and a foam roller creates a bumpy texture called orange peel. Both are obvious on large, flat cabinet doors, and dust that lands on a fresh finish cures right into it.





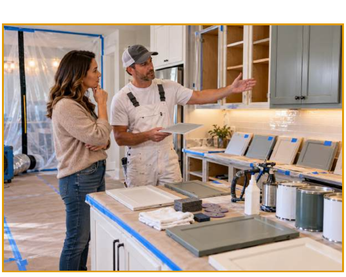
4. Dry to the Touch Is Not the Same as Fully Cured

Paint can feel dry within hours, but curing is a separate chemical process that takes much longer. Cabinet paint may feel dry overnight and still be soft enough to dent or scratch, so corners chip and areas around handles scuff.

5. What a Professional Cabinet Refinishing Process Covers

Professional painters remove doors and drawer fronts to paint them, degrease every surface, and sand each cabinet according to its material. They choose a primer based on the cabinet material and use a durable topcoat designed for a kitchen.





6. Choosing a Painting Team

When comparing contractors, look beyond the price and ask what their process includes, from preparation through the final coat. Ask what type of coating they use and how they control dust and other conditions during application.

Presented by:
GildedPainting.com

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