

Asheville Paint Pros

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Cabinet refinishing in Asheville, the short version

Prices, prep and the 5 to 7 day sequence for an Asheville kitchen

WHAT IT RUNS HERE

Cabinet refinishing in Asheville runs \$3,300 to \$7,700 for a typical kitchen, starting at \$85 per door. Most kitchens take 5-7 days. Red oak that needs its grain filled and pre-1978 lead-safe prep both push the price toward the top. Work carries a 2 year workmanship warranty. Call (828) 826-1687 for a free estimate, and most homeowners hear back within 15 minutes.

Free estimate, written scope
<https://ashevillepaintpros.com/guides/cabinet-refinishing>

(828) 826-1687

START HERE

What matters most

- A typical Asheville kitchen refinishes for \$3,300 to \$7,700, starting at \$85 per door.
- Door and drawer count is the first number a real bid states, so count yours before you call.
- Red oak needs its grain filled to look smooth, and that step is the biggest cost swing between two kitchens.
- Sanding painted cabinets in a pre-1978 house is regulated work in North Carolina once it passes 6 square feet in a room.
- Benjamin Moore puts full hardness at up to 30 days, so load the shelves lightly for the first week.

THE NUMBERS

Cabinet refinishing prices in Asheville, NC

SCOPE	WHAT IT COVERS	ASHEVILLE RANGE
Per door starting price	Doors and drawer fronts removed, degreased, sanded, primed and sprayed	From \$85 per door
Typical Asheville kitchen	Doors, drawer fronts, face frames and visible box exteriors, two finish coats	\$3,300 to \$7,700
Near the low end of the band	20 to 25 doors, maple or already painted, no grain filling, existing hardware reused	Around \$3,300
Near the high end of the band	40 or more doors and drawers, red oak grain filled smooth, island in a second color, new hardware pattern	Around \$7,700
Grain filling on red oak	Filler squeegeed into the pores, sanded flat, re-primed, sometimes twice	Quoted by door count after the walkthrough
Cabinet interiors and shelves	Box interiors, shelves and drawer boxes, outside the standard scope	Quoted on request
Lead-safe work, pre-1978 kitchen	Containment, HEPA vacuuming and cleanup verification under the North Carolina RRP program	Quoted after the walkthrough
Workmanship warranty	Peeling, blistering and adhesion failure on the work performed, 2 years	Included

Door count and whether the wood needs its grain filled move the number more than color choice does.

What it costs

A typical Asheville kitchen refinishes for \$3,300 to \$7,700, starting at \$85 per door. Door and drawer count is the first driver of the number.

- Low end: 20 to 25 doors, maple or already painted, hardware reused
- High end: 40 plus doors, oak grain filled, island in a second color
- Timeline: 5-7 days
- Workmanship warranty: 2 years

Refinish, reface or replace

The boxes decide it. Sound boxes with a working layout are candidates for refinishing. Failing boxes are not worth saving.

- Refinish: solid boxes, square doors, tight hinges
- New doors on old boxes: style change, warped or lifting thermofoil
- Full replacement: water swollen boxes, sagging shelves, layout change
- Quick test: pull on a face frame and see if the box racks

Oak and grain filling

Replacement kitchens in Asheville's older neighborhoods are commonly red oak from the 1980s and 1990s. Open pores make an unfilled door read striped once it is painted.

- Grain filler or high build primer, sanded flat, sometimes twice
- This is the biggest cost swing between two same size kitchens
- Maple and previously painted doors skip the step entirely
- Thermofoil that is lifting cannot be reliably refinished

Products worth naming

Sherwin-Williams Emerald Urethane Trim Enamel and Benjamin Moore Advance are the two enamels used here.

- Emerald Urethane: 1 hour dry, 4 hour recoat, under 50 g/L VOC, rated for blocking resistance
- Advance: 4 to 6 hours dry, 16 hour recoat, 43 g/L VOC, apply between 50 and 90 degrees
- Do not apply Advance above 85 percent relative humidity
- Bonding primer on slick surfaces, shellac based primer over oak

Asheville humidity and wood movement

The muggy stretch runs early June into mid September, then heating season drops indoor humidity into the twenties by January.

- Solid wood panels shrink in winter and can show a bare line at the edge
- It partially closes again in summer
- Hold indoor humidity between 30 and 50 percent
- Run air conditioning during summer refinishing to keep recoat windows honest

Where jobs fail

Nearly every callback traces to prep rather than product.

- Grease left on the doors near the range, causing flaking weeks later
- Tannin bleeding through white on oak because latex primer was used
- Doors closed before the film hardened, fusing to the frames
- Finish sprayed too heavy, sagging at panel edges

The first month

Treat a fresh finish gently. Benjamin Moore puts optimum hardness at up to 30 days and says to keep shelves and tabletops out of service for at least 3 to 5 days.

- Load shelves lightly for the first week
- Clean with mild soap and water only, no ammonia or abrasives
- Keep the touch up jar and fix chips early
- Expect 8 to 12 years on most doors, 5 to 7 under the sink

Check these before you sign a cabinet refinishing contract

- ☐ The bid states the door count and the drawer front count as separate numbers.
- ☐ Degreasing is called out as its own step before any sanding.
- ☐ The primer is named by type, with a bonding primer for slick surfaces and a shellac based primer where tannin bleed is likely.
- ☐ The finish enamel is named by product line, not described as cabinet paint.
- ☐ The bid says where doors are sprayed and whether they are finished flat.
- ☐ Grain filling is priced in or priced out, in writing, if you have oak.
- ☐ Crown, light rail, end panels and toe kicks are each listed as included or excluded.
- ☐ Hardware removal, labeling, hole filling and reinstallation are covered by the scope.
- ☐ For a pre-1978 house, the contractor gives you their North Carolina lead firm certification number.
- ☐ The certificate of insurance comes directly from the insurance agency.
- ☐ You get a cure window in writing, including when to load shelves again.
- ☐ The workmanship warranty term and its exclusions are written down before you pay a deposit.

Want a real number for your place?

We walk the job, measure it, and put the scope in writing. Free, and there is no pressure attached.

(828) 826-1687

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Full guide: <https://ashevillepaintpros.com/guides/cabinet-refinishing>

Prices shown are the ranges published on our website at the time of writing and are a starting point, not a quote. Every property is different. Figures update when the site does.