



# HINGES & HARDWARE

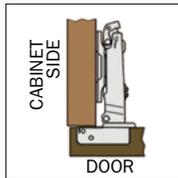
## THE BACKBONE OF YOUR KITCHEN

**When designing your kitchen, it is important not to overlook the interior function of your units in favour of the external aesthetics and overall appearance. The hardware you select, namely hinges for doors and runners for drawers, forms the backbone of your kitchen. By specifying high quality products, you will save in the long run as the products will be more durable and will not fail under load and require replacement.**

Concealed hinges are used in the majority of kitchen installations, there is a vast selection available with different applications that are suited to the specific hinge. There are 5 types of concealed hinges that are commonly used in South Africa:

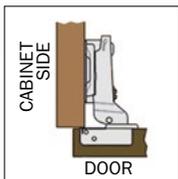
### FULL OVERLAY CONCEALED HINGE:

This style of hinge is used by most kitchen manufacturers as it hides the edge of the cabinet that the doors are attached to. It will have a straight arm when you look at it and it allows the cupboard doors edge to be in-line with the edge of the cabinet. This hinge is fully adjustable using 3 little screws which will finely adjust all of the angles.



### HALF OVERLAY CONCEALED HINGE:

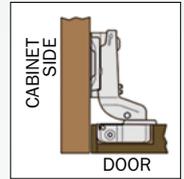
Very similar to the full overlay hinge, but it allows for a door to be mounted either-side of a central carcass panel. In comparison to the straight arm of the full overlay hinge, the half overlay will have a bend in the arm which allows the cupboard door edge to cover half the side



panel edge, leaving the other half exposed. These hinges are also fully adjustable.

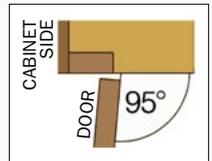
### INSET CONCEALED HINGE:

This style of hinge is visually very different to the first 2 as it will have a large crank in the arm which allows the cupboard door to be inset, or set inside, the cabinet frame showing the outer edge of the cupboard fully. We usually find these types of hinges on the more traditional styled kitchens as they nicely expose the wooden frame around the cupboard door creating that extra bit of detail. You also find these hinges sometimes used with glass doors in display cabinets.



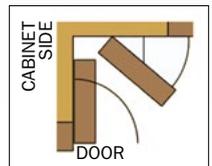
### BLIND CORNER HINGE:

This style of hinge is used when there is no 90° end panel to fix to, but only an inline fascia or seen filler. A minimum distance of 70mm is required from the inside edge of the fascia to fix the mounting plate and hinge to.



### BI-FOLD CORNER HINGE:

This style of hinge is used for double door corner cabinets (90° or 'L' shaped), where the first door is attached to the cabinet side panel with a 170° hinge, and the second door is attached to the first door with a Bi-Fold hinge. It is the ideal solution for kitchen corner cabinets fitted with carousels.



Concealed hinges are available in various opening angles such as 95°, 110° and the 170° being used for corner cabinets or pantry units where you need as much access to the interior of the cabinet as possible.

**Kitchen hinges have advanced tremendously over the years** to a point where you now don't need to endure the loud slamming of the doors or even need to use a handle or put much effort into opening and closing your cabinet doors.

Installing **soft-close hinges** means you won't need to listen to the annoying sound of a slamming cabinet door again. The doors will not slam shut, but slowly move to a fully closed position quietly. Some hinges have the soft close mechanism fully integrated into the fitting, others require a damper to be fitted to each door (usually one per door – not one per hinge). The dampers catch the door before it hits the cabinet and slowly closes the door the remainder of the way quietly and softly. Some dampers attach to the top or bottom of the cabinet carcass with the rubber top coming into contact with the door before it closes, thus slowing it down and preventing that slamming sound.

**Tipmatic or 'Push-to-open' hinges** are now incredibly popular in modern kitchens as they facilitate a handleless look. They're durable, just as easy to install as 'regular' concealed hinges and are easily adjustable. Available in both magnetic and mechanical versions, these hinges allow you to open and close your cabinet doors with just a gentle push.

It must be noted that the Tipmatic function and the Soft-Close function cannot be combined. This is one of those aspects you will need to make a clear decision on – it's either or and cannot be both. Discuss with your designer your preferred style and your budget, as often these two aspects will determine your choice in hinge. Remember that a cheaper version of a particular functioning hinge may end up costing you more in the long run by having to replace hinges as and when they fail – you get what you pay for.

Drawers now store everything from utensils, cutlery and spices to bulkier items like pots, pans, dishware and chopping blocks. Drawers may be kept simple without partitions or divided for easy organisation. Having a basic understanding of drawer runners, as well as some of the features and benefits of different types of runners, will help

streamline your search and enable you, as the consumer, to make informed decisions.

### **SIDE MOUNT RUNNERS:**

The 'slides' themselves are attached horizontally to the timber drawer box and the cabinet carcass. Side mount runners are useful across a wide variety of applications because of their weight bearing capabilities and durability. These are available in either a silver ball-bearing unit or an epoxy coated 'roller wheel' mechanism.

### **CENTRE MOUNT RUNNERS:**

Runners with single slides that mount directly under the centre of the timber drawer box. Centre mount runners are seldom used in the kitchen as they restrict the height of the drawer box and hold less weight than side mount alternatives.

### **UNDER MOUNT RUNNERS:**

Runners fix to the sides of the cabinet carcass and connect to a locking rail that is attached to the underside of the drawer box ensuring the mechanism is concealed and making it aesthetically pleasing to the eye when the drawer is open.

Both side mount and under mount runners are available in different forms with the more basic of them being fitted to the sides of a timber (usually melamine) drawer box, while the more advanced options are metal or powder coated and form the sides, and sometimes the back, of the actual drawer box; thus providing a more sleek and sophisticated look when the drawers are open. Some brands offer a variety of colours in these metal drawer boxes as well as materials; from white, black and grey to clear or frosted glass.

Runners come in varying lengths to accommodate non-standard depth units as well as offering varying degrees of extension.

### **THE 3 MAIN DEGREES OF EXTENSION ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

**THREE QUARTER (¾):** Part of the drawer remains in the cabinet

**FULL:** Allows the drawer to open the full length of the runner providing greater access.

**OVER TRAVEL:** Allows drawer to open beyond full extension, providing complete access – even underneath countertops.

Like hinges for cabinet doors, the drawer runners are also available with Soft-Close and Tipmatic / Push-to-Open functions.



more. Also bear in mind that bigger, (wider and deeper), drawers tend to attract more weight, more weight means you have to use more force/energy to pull out the drawer. While this is not an issue for a drawer you only pull out occasionally, with a drawer you use all the time this could become tiresome.

If you are seeking luxury at your fingertips, go with "soft closing" runners, which retract with a gentle push and include shock absorption that prevents drawers from slamming shut. Also, enquire regarding detent features, which cause the drawer to pause at various marked positions.

Tipmatic / Push to open runners open with an easy nudge and give you the ultimate in minimal appeal keeping you from needing an extra handle or knob. These are a great choice for kitchens and bathrooms where obtrusive hardware might interfere with the look and feel of your space.

**Weight Rating** is an important consideration because you want to have a drawer slide that lasts for a lifetime of use. The key to getting your money's worth is to ensure that you are getting a product that is rated to hold as much weight as you will require. The options for weight capacity offered on runners can be anything from 25kg to 60kg and sometimes

Do not be afraid to ask your kitchen designer a myriad of questions, this will only equip you to make informed decisions so that there is no ambiguity or confusion when it comes to your expectations and what hardware you'll be receiving.

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