



Welcome to Räke (pronounced 'rocky') Cabinet & Countertop Solutions. We welcome you to our world of many possibilities in updating/remodeling your space. Please see below for helpful tips on your journey to a more joyful, beautiful and useful space.

Cabinet Construction: 5 Quick Tips on Plywood vs Furniture Board

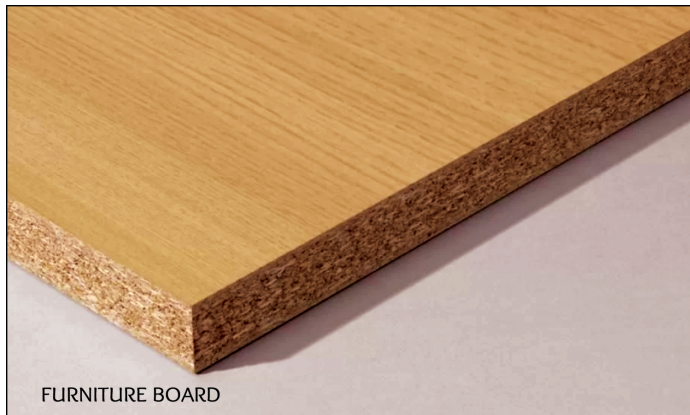
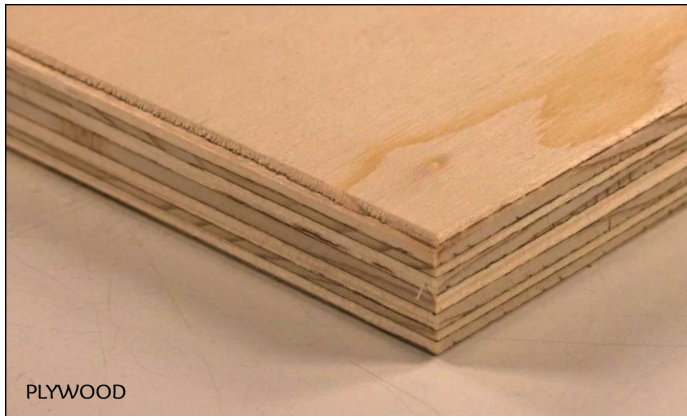
As I ponder my kitchen remodel, and since I won't use solid wood (for cost and environmental reasons, of course), I learned about the differences in the two most commonly used wood products in Cabinet Construction. Both Plywood and Furniture Board (also known as particle board) are 'engineered woods' that have pros and cons to each type. Below are a few things to think about when deciding what is best for your own dream kitchen (or any room remodel/update). Remember that each cabinet brand and/or builder may have their own opinions on these two options.

1. Plywood is made from thin layers of solid timber veneer, where the grain is alternated for each layer. This prevents expansion and warping, makes it light weight, and yet very strong.
2. Furniture Board is made from wood chips, mill shavings and sawdust bound together with an agent like resin, and then pressed into flat sheets. This makes it lower in cost, strong and easy to work with. This type comes in different densities - the denser it is, the heavier and stronger it will be (and also hold screw fasteners more securely.)
3. Moisture: As we all know, water can be a pain in the tutu when it comes to anything made of wood - cabinets, furniture, etc. Plywood handles moisture better, but will weaken and deform over time. Furniture Board will swell when wet and crumble over time.
4. Cost: Plywood usually costs more (by roughly about 10%) than Furniture Board. Another way to curb costs is to use Furniture Board for most of the build, but use Plywood in areas where it's more visible, or where there could be moisture, like under sinks, near toilets or the washer/dryer, etc.
5. Quality, Lifetime Use: High quality Plywood will usually hold up over the lifetime of your cabinets. Higher density Furniture Board is definitely strong enough to hold up for a very long time in kitchen cabinets, bathrooms, offices, etc. When it comes to home value and appearance, some builders and cabinet brands have strong opinions on which has 'more perceived value'.

Hence, ask lots of questions. And remember, that even solid wood cabinets won't hold up if they are not installed and joined correctly. Whether you choose solid wood, plywood or furniture board, use a competent builder/installer. They can show you displays in their showrooms, and provide info on the latest in technology and features - like roll out trash bins, under-cabinet lighting, soft-close hinges, etc. An experienced cabinet designer/installer can provide guidance to help you choose what is best for your lifestyle and usefulness of your remodel/updated room. And most importantly, to provide a space that gives you joy every time you see and use it.

Written by: Jane Zane, Marketing Manager, Räke Cabinet & Countertop Solutions, Bloomington, Indiana.
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