

LOCAL VS IMPORTED QUALITY

The main differences between these are found in the materials, designs and technologies used.

Most African companies do not have access to the latest technologies coming out of Europe until well after they have hit the market there. Then, it takes time for manufacturers here to observe and then integrate the new trends and developments into their own manufacturing templates and processes to create doors, mechanisms, drawers and so on that are in line with those technologies.

So, effectively if you want to be ahead of the trends and get leading edge designs and the freshest, newest ideas in kitchen manufacture, then it is well worth looking at importing a kitchen made in Europe, particularly for kitchen units in the mid- to high-end price ranges.



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Why does the kitchen manufacture process matter?

All rigid kitchen cabinetry is machine manufactured so will be more accurate compared with onsite construction in the following areas:-

The rigid kitchen cabinets will be square along every side and every elevation, which is not easy to do by hand in an enclosed space. If the cabinet is not square then your doors will never align perfectly.

Drawer runners are also fitted by machine within rigid kitchens so they are mm perfect. Whereas, if your kitchen has 10 drawers then this would mean 20 runners that your installer would have to fit in perfect symmetry on either side of the carcass - no easy task!

Flat-pack kitchen units use screws for the joints, meaning they will always be visible when you open your cabinet doors.

The type of joint used within kitchen cabinetry manufacture is one of the key factors that determines the quality of construction, and in turn the quality of the end-product. Unlike flat-pack construction, most rigidly manufactured kitchen furniture is constructed using Glue and Dowel joints.

Rigid Kitchens: What is a Glued and Dowelled joint and what are its benefits.

A dowel joint is comprised of two pieces of wood that have been joined and effectively held in place by small cylindrical wooden rods that are called dowels. Holes are bored into the pieces of wood to be joined, and the size of the holes match the size of the dowels so they can be neatly inserted. Following this the dowel joint is glued so that the two pieces of wood are fixed together through the formation of a firm and stable joint.

The dowels used for joints can be of all different sizes, and the use of the dowel is not limited to wood constructions but metal too. The benefit of using this type of join being that it forms a very strong and durable bond.