

Detailed Guide to Installing Cabinet Filler Strips

Before starting your cabinet filler strip project, you'll need the right tools and a clear workspace. Here's how to complete the installation step by step:

Gather Necessary Tools

You'll need these basic items to complete the job well:

Tool	Purpose
Mechanical Pencil	For exact lines
Cut-off Piece	It matches your filler material
Block of Wood	For support
Clamp	To secure pieces
Tape	To hold pieces in place
Jigsaw with Fine-tooth Blade	For precise cutting
Two-inch Trim Screws	To attach filler strip to cabinet
Drill for Pilot Holes	To pre-drill holes for screws

Step 1: Prepare the Filler Piece

Start by setting up your work area properly. Place the wood block at the bottom of the cabinet. Make sure its edge lines up perfectly with the cabinet's edge. Use tape to keep the block flat against the cabinet's side. This setup helps you mark the correct cutting line.

Step 2: Mark the Filler

Take your cut-off piece and place it along the wall. Move the cut-off piece down the wall while marking the filler piece with your mechanical pencil. This step helps you copy the wall's shape onto your filler strip. The mechanical pencil gives you very thin, exact lines to follow.

Step 3: Measure and Mark for Cutting

Check the space between the wall and cabinet carefully. Measure this gap at different points. Mark which side of the line you'll keep and which you'll cut away. Keep the pencil line intact - you might need it later for final adjustments with sanding.

Step 4: Cutting the Filler

Use your jigsaw with a fine-tooth blade to cut along the marked line. Stay on the waste side of the line when cutting. This leaves room for adjustments if needed. Cut slowly and steadily to follow your line accurately.

Step 5: Fine-tuning the Fit

After cutting, you might need to adjust the fit. Use a palm sander or belt sander to smooth the edge. Take off small amounts at a time. Test the fit often as you sand. You want the piece to fit snugly without forcing it.

Step 6: Install the Filler Piece

Once your filler fits well, secure it in place:

- Set the filler piece into the gap
- Make small pilot holes for your screws
- Use two-inch trim screws to attach the filler
- Place screws behind hinges when possible
- Add extra screws near the bottom where they won't show

Step 8: Final Adjustments and Cleanup

Check that your filler sits right and looks good. Make sure all screws are tight but not too tight. Clean up any sawdust or debris from the installation area. Test nearby cabinet doors and drawers to ensure they open smoothly.