

SOUTHERN CABINETRY MATCHING SERVICES

The Smart Remodeler's Guide to Southern Cabinetry

Engineering, Budgeting, and Sourcing Premium Cabinetry for Central Alabama's Climate.

2026 Trade & Client Advisory Brief



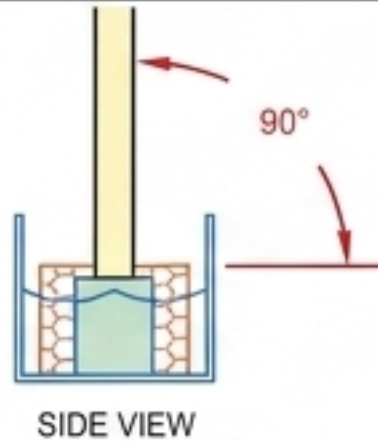
The Material Standard: Built to Survive

True quality is quantifiable. We mandate strict adherence to KCMA A161.1-2022 standards and premium wood specifications.



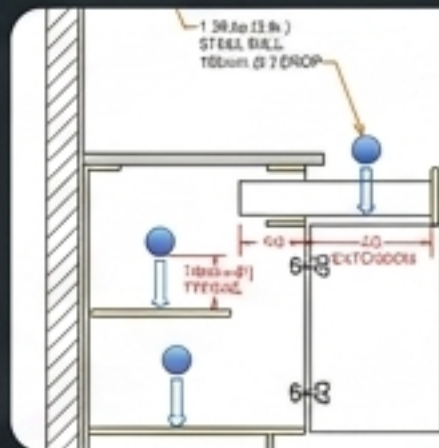
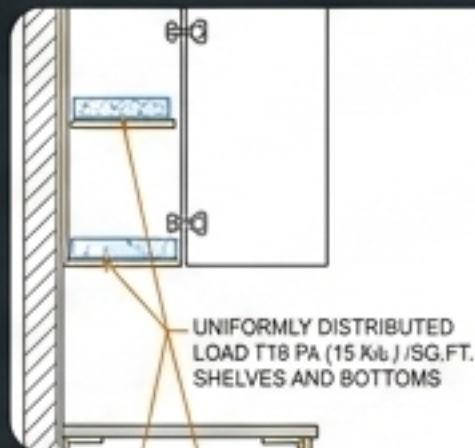
Material Baseline – Kiln-Dried Hardwoods

Moisture content reduced to <10%. Woods like Maple, Oak, and Hickory remain dimensionally stable, actively preventing warping in muggy Alabama conditions.



KCMA Test 9.5 – The 'Sponge Test'

Cabinet doors are exposed to a detergent-soaked sponge for a full 24 hours.
Pass Criteria: Zero delamination, swelling, or finish whitening.
Crucial for sink-base survival.



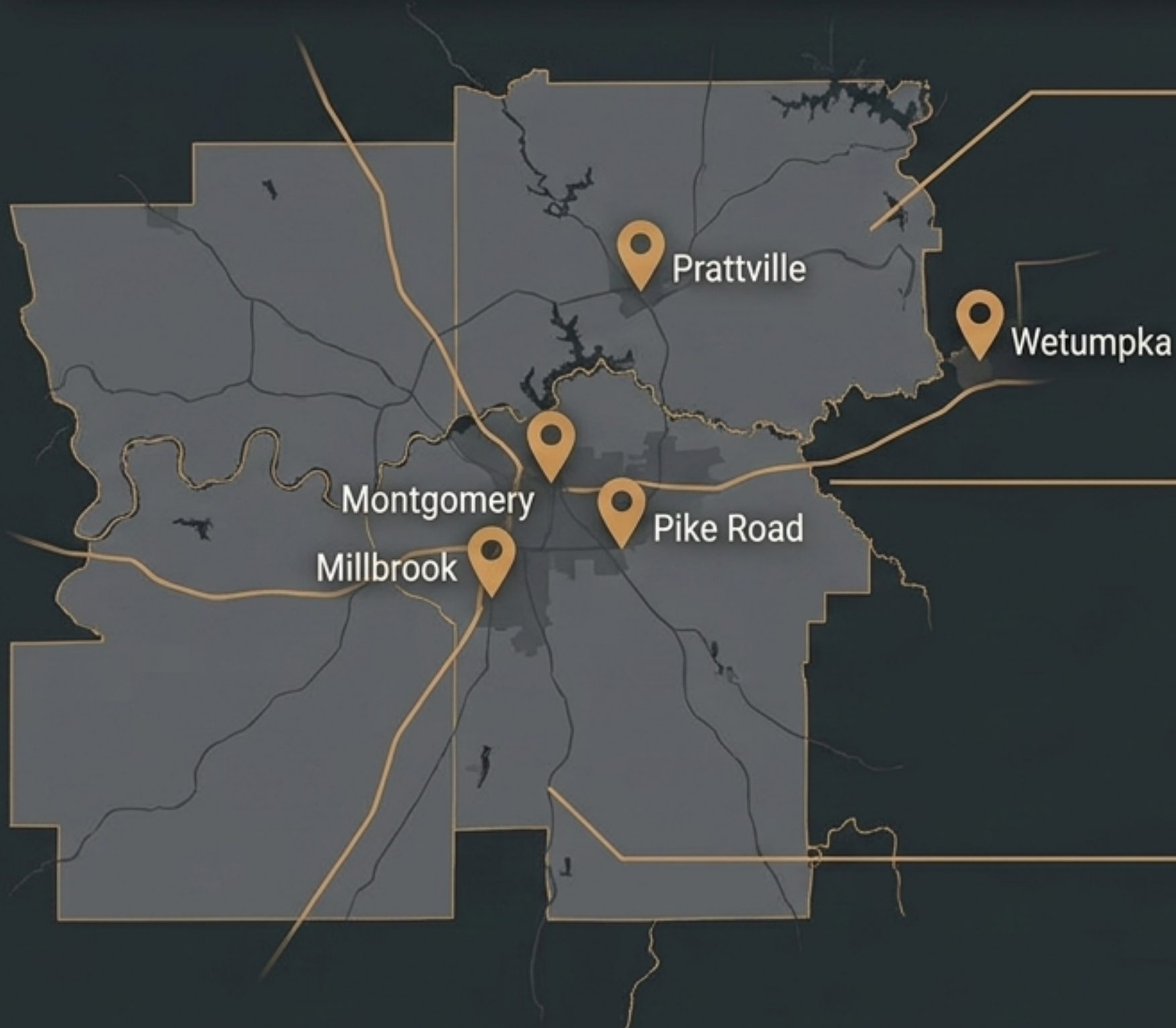
KCMA Test 5.1 & 5.4 – Load & Impact

15 lbs/sq.ft uniform load for 7 days + 3 lb steel ball drop from 6 inches.

Pass Criteria: No joint separation; maximum deflection of 0.25 inches between supports.

Montgomery Metro: Real-World Cost Benchmarks

Precision budgeting for custom hardwood cabinetry fabrication and installation.



Custom Kitchens

\$10,000 – \$30,000

Full custom fabrication, solid wood dovetail joinery, soft-close hardware standard, premium hand-applied finishes.

Custom Bathroom Vanities

\$2,000 – \$6,000

Moisture-resistant finishes, exact sizing for awkward layouts, tailored interior storage configurations.

The Tariff Avoidance Strategy

Partnering with local craftsmen completely eliminates the 25-46% import tariff markups on overseas goods.

Your budget goes directly into premium wood and craftsmanship, not international freight.

The Refacing Shortcut: Value Engineering

When existing cabinet boxes are structurally sound, refacing offers a high-impact, rapid-turnaround alternative to full replacement.

Feature	Full Custom Replacement	Cabinet Refacing
Time to Complete	4 to 8 Weeks	3 to 5 Days
Cost Impact	100% (Baseline)	~50% Savings
Materials Used	All-new boxes, face frames, doors	New solid wood doors, drawer fronts, hardware, veneers
Best Strategic Fit	Total layout changes, severe water damage	Keeping current layout, budget-conscious flips, pre-sale upgrades

Refacing allows homeowners to retain existing granite or quartz countertops while completely transforming the aesthetic of the space.

The 7-Point Cabinetry Evaluation Checklist

Never approve a cabinetry order without verifying these seven critical benchmarks.

1

Box Construction: Confirm all-plywood construction; strictly reject particleboard or MDF boxes for high-humidity areas.

2

Joinery: Require solid wood dovetail drawer boxes over stapled or glued joints for lifelong durability.

3

KCMA Certification: Verify passing grades for finish durability (Test 9.5) and structural load integrity.

4

CARB Phase 2: Ensure compliance for safe, low formaldehyde indoor air emissions.

5

Hardware Specs: Mandate full-extension drawer glides and soft-close hinges as the baseline standard, not an upgrade.

6

Tariff Exposure: Identify manufacturing origin to avoid surprise 25%+ price hikes on imported goods.

7

Delivery Inspection: Verify box squareness and finish consistency before signing the delivery receipt.