Dentists have two options when purchasing new cabinetry for their offices. They can either buy commercially manufactured dental cabinets, or they can hire local cabinetmakers to design and build according to their specifications. Here are some advantages and disadvantages of each.

**MANUFACTURED CABINETRY**

**Advantages**

- Readily available from several companies.
- Wide variety of price ranges and options on the market.
- Standard cabinetry designs handle a majority of needs in the treatment room and support areas.
- Aseptically designed for easy cleaning and long life under harsh conditions.
- "Name" brands may have better resale value.
- Most manufacturers will customize within reason.
- Can be moved if practice relocates or expands.
- Purchased cabinets are considered capital investments rather than leasehold improvements, thereby accelerating the purchaser's tax deductions.
- Divider consoles offer economy. Shared sinks and pass-thru X-rays reduce equipment and installation costs.

**Disadvantages**

- May not fit unusually shaped rooms.
- Cost may be higher than custom cabinetry.
- Last-minute design changes may be expensive or inconvenient to make.
CUSTOM CABINETRY

Advantages

♦ Depending on builder, may be less expensive than purchased cabinets.

♦ Unlimited choice of colors and finish materials.

♦ Can be built to fit unusually shaped rooms.

♦ Doctor can be actively involved in design process and can monitor progress of job.

♦ Last-minute design changes may not be as problematic as they might be with manufactured cabinets.

Disadvantages

♦ May not be aseptically designed, and may not withstand long-term hard use.

♦ Difficult to move.

♦ Built-in cabinets are considered leasehold improvements, not capital equipment; therefore, they are not tax deductible.

♦ As leasehold improvements, these cabinets usually become a permanent part of the building and cannot be removed if the doctor relocates.

♦ Limited resale value.

♦ Specialty materials can greatly increase cost.

♦ Smaller shops may have trouble meeting deadlines if job is delayed by problems in production or obtaining materials.

♦ Custom cabinets may not necessarily be built in a modular style, and may not allow for easy future expansion or modification.