Custom Flatpack Bookshelf Wall

Transform basic bookcases into a seamless built-in library

Turn standard flatpack bookcases into a stunning, custom floor-to-ceiling library. Use this guide to gather the exact materials and execute a flawless installation.



Key Dimensions & Materials

1/2-inch thick
MDF panels for wall filler strips

1.5-inch profile
1x2 pine boards for face frames

5mm
Unused peg holes to spackle smooth

4-inch standard
Base trim to ground the piece

10%
Excess lumber for cuts and bowing

7 days
Cure time before loading heavy books

The Flawless Paint Secret

Always apply a shellac-based primer over factory laminate. It creates an essential chemical bond that prevents peeling, ensuring your custom matte finish lasts permanently.

The Custom Built-In Sequence

1. **Level and Anchor** Shim bases backward, then drive screws through the upper backing into wall studs to prevent tipping.
2. **Connect the Units** Clamp vertical side panels together and drive screws through pre-drilled holes for a solid block.
3. **Attach Face Frames** Apply wood glue and secure straight pine boards with brad nails to add structural rigidity.
4. **Prep and Prime** Spackle holes, sand smooth, vacuum dust, and apply shellac primer with a high-density foam roller.

Measure Before You Buy

- Measure the exact baseboard height to match your room's existing profile.
- Verify total ceiling clearance to select the tallest flatpack units available.
- Calculate your wall-to-wall width to plan the precise bookcase layout.
- Locate and mark all wooden wall studs using a magnetic stud finder.
- Check drywall for plumb using a reliable four-foot bubble level.

Hardware & Prep Supplies

- [ ] 3-inch wood screws for wall studs
- [ ] 1.25-inch screws to connect units
- [ ] 18-gauge brad nails and wood glue
- [ ] Lightweight color-changing spackle
- [ ] 220-grit sanding block and tack cloth
- [ ] Shellac-based primer and matte paint

Lumber & Unit Quantities

Wall Feet	31.5-inch flatpack bookcases	1x2x8 ft pine boards	1/2-inch MDF panels	4-inch baseboard trim
5	2 units	6 pieces	1 sheets	6 linear ft
10	4 units	12 pieces	2 sheets	12 linear ft
15	6 units	18 pieces	3 sheets	18 linear ft

Always purchase 10% excess lumber to account for cutting mistakes.

Adapting to Your Walls

Find your row: **Your drywall condition**

Your drywall condition	Your pick	Why
Severely bowed walls	Cardboard scribing template	Tests fit before cutting expensive MDF
Uneven drywall contours	Trace with a compass	Marks unique curves directly onto MDF
Tight flush gaps	Tap with rubber mallet	Seats filler strips perfectly flush

Project Notes & Measurements

Enjoy styling your stunning, custom-built library!