

Open Shelving Spacing Cheat Sheet

Map out, install, and style perfectly proportioned kitchen displays.

Confidently organize your everyday dishes with these precise dimensions. Create a beautiful, structurally sound focal point that withstands daily family use.

● Essential spacing dimensions

11 in

Plate depth for completely flush storage

15 in

Vertical gap for tall pitcher clearance

2 in

Solid oak thickness to prevent bowing

16–32 in

Bracket spacing depending on stud framing

18 in

Lowest height above primary countertop workspace

12 in

Top clearance below the kitchen ceiling

Anchor the visual weight

Store your heaviest mixing bowls and thickest plates on the bottom tier. This naturally pleasing setup keeps daily workhorse pieces accessible while preventing shoulder strain.



● **Secure mounting hardware sequence**

- 1 **Locate structural framing** Scan the wall with a high-quality magnetic stud finder to pinpoint framing centers.
- 2 **Mark precise locations** Use a laser level to guarantee perfect horizontal alignment before drilling into the tile.
- 3 **Bore clean pilot holes** Drill through the tile first to prevent the surrounding grout from cracking under pressure.
- 4 **Anchor into wall studs** Drive heavy-duty lag screws firmly through the brass hardware directly into the wooden studs.
- 5 **Verify the final level** Check alignment across multiple brackets before tightening the anchoring screws completely.

● **Where to place your items**

Find your row: **Item you own**

Item you own	Your pick	Why
Thickest ceramic plates	Lowest tier front	Prevents daily shoulder strain
Tall coffee makers	Adjust lowest clearance	Accommodates unique appliance heights
Fragile wine glasses	Highest shelf tier	Protects from busy hands
Trailing houseplants	Top wooden boards	Breaks up rigid lines

● **Project notes and measurements**

Enjoy styling your beautifully balanced kitchen display for decades of daily family use!