

Cabinet and Drawer Latch Product Guide

No single latch will work for all types of cabinetry. So before buying a latch for a drawer or a cabinet, it's important to answer the following two questions:

1. Do you wish to prevent pinching?
2. What type of cabinetry do you have?

By having an answer to both questions, you will be in a much better position to buy a latch that will actually work for you. So decide what type you prefer, and what kind you can actually install, before buying a latch, and you will save yourself hours of frustration and despair!

The main safety concern would be the content of the cabinet or drawer, such as sharp items, choking hazards, chemicals and thin breakables. Pinching a finger in a drawer or a cabinet door is not a major safety concern. In fact some parents prefer their little one to pinch their fingers early on. This way, they will learn not to stick their fingers into tight spaces where they could be pinch. As such you might prevent more serious pinching later on, such as in door cracks and in heavy oven doors.

If you wish to prevent pinching, the so-called two-way latches or the magnetic latches is what you need to look for. Keep in mind that for some cabinetry neither two-way nor magnetic latches will work. One of the other will work for most drawers and cabinets though. The latches that prevent pinching are typically more difficult to install than the regular latches. The latches to consider preventing pinching would be the following kind:

No pinched fingers latches!

- Safety 1st Tot-Lok (magnetic)
- Kidco Magnetic Latch
- Mommy's Helper Safe Lok latch (not magnetic)

Any other kind that we carry at www.safetynook.com will allow the drawer or cabinet door to open slightly, to release from within, and minor pinching can occur.

The most important thing to consider before buying a latch is whether the latch will actually work for the type of cabinetry that you have. If the latch does not work for your cabinetry, there is no point in buying it, since it cannot be installed properly. In the following we will discuss the different types of cabinetry and what latches offered for sale by Safety Nook will work best for each type.

Overlay doors and drawers

These types of cabinets are by far the most common stock style and also the easiest cabinets to install latches in. They are framed and the cabinet doors and the drawers overlap the face frame when closed.



When installing any 2-piece latch (such as Kidco and Mommy's Helper latches), the small catch piece is installed first on the frame and then the hook is installed on the cabinet door in a working position. All latches will work for these types including magnetic latches and Gerber one-piece latch.



When installing latches on drawers the smaller catch piece of the latch might be blocking the drawer, thus preventing it from closing entirely. This is rarely a problem, but if there is virtually no space between the frame and the actual drawer box (behind the face board), either place the catch piece as far back as possible or consider installing a wonder-latch on the side of the drawer instead! The Wonder-latch will almost always work regardless of drawer cabinet type.

Frameless or European style cabinets

This is a cabinet style in which doors are attached directly to the sides of the cabinet box with hidden hinges. Typically there is no face or top frame – just a face cabinet or a drawer. No regular 2-piece latch will work for these types of cabinets. The only latches that will work are latches that can use the face board to hook onto – such as Gerber one-piece latch and magnetic latches mounted with one piece only. Alternatively a cabinet lock can be installed on the cabinet front.



2-piece latches will most likely work for the top drawer (under the counter top), but we recommend Wonder Latches for easy installation. Frameless drawers that are NOT positioned right under the counter top have no top frame, but there will almost always be room on the side to mount a latch. If the face board is mounted least 1 inch higher than the actual drawer, any 2-piece latch can be side mounted. Also, a Wonder Latch can always be mounted. In the picture to the right is shown a 3 inches clearance between face board and the drawer box. Notice how the Kidco one-way latch has been mounted sideways, with the small catch piece on the side-frame (note: there is no top frame).



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If the face board and the inside box is almost flush and there is no room to mount a hook piece on the board, above the inside box, the Wonder Latch is the only solution! In the pictures below a Wonder Latch is shown, where there is no room for any regular latch, side mounted.



Framed and inset doors and drawers

These cabinet and drawer boxes are framed and the doors and drawer fronts are recessed to flush with the cabinet frame when closed.

The same rule applies for this style of cabinetry as described above. Any 2 piece latches (such as Kidco Cabinet and Swivel latch and Mommy's Helper Safe Lok) will only work for drawers, and only if they can be side mounted inside the drawer (see picture above). Gerber latches, Safety 1st Tot Lok (magnetic latch) and Wonder latches will almost always work for these cabinets. Wonder latches are designed for drawers only!

As an alternative to inside mounted latches, there are outside locking straps available – such as the Kidco adjustable locking strap.