

# **Latches - What Latch To Use Where and Why?**

2010 IAFCs

New Member Day

Phoenix, AZ

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Safer Kids and Homes

## Some Interior Latches to choose from:

- **Rev A Shelf (Safety 1st) - Tot Loks**
- **Kidco - Adhesive Magnet Latch**
- **Kidco - Nylon Swivel Latches (or original 2 piece)**
- **Kidco – Adhesive Latch S331**
- **Mommy’s Helper - Safelok Latches**
  - Original
  - Disable – Extra Long
- **Safer Baby – Side Mount “Wonder” Latch**
- **Safety Innovations - Spring Latch**
  - New latches on the horizon?

# Choosing The Latch - Things To Consider

- **Needs of the client?**

- Who else needs to get in?
- Is finger pinching a realistic concern?

- **How old is the child?**

- ***Two years and under?***

- Most latches will work to keep this age out.

- ***Over two years?***

- Straight push-down style latches may be mastered this year.

- ***Over three years and special needs kids?***

- Safeloks and Magnetic Latches will keep kids out the longest.

- **What's inside?**

- Just a mess or true hazards.



# Age of children we're locking out?

- ***Two years and under?***



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- ***Over two years?***



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# Style of cabinet

## *Exterior view – cabinet doors and drawers*

- **Decorative moulding, recessed panels**
  - Must be careful of screw placement and depth.
  - Could make installing magnetic latches tough.
- **Flush front cabinets**
  - There may be no place to install the catch.
  - Latches that can be installed with no catch.
    - Spring latch, Tot Lok, Kidco Adhesive s331.



# Style of cabinet

## *Exterior view – cabinet doors and drawers*

- **Deep over-hanging countertops**

- Might be no room to reach fingers in to open a manual latch

- Magnet Latches, Wonder latch.



- **Long cabinet pulls or interior screws**

- might be in the way of a magnetic key.



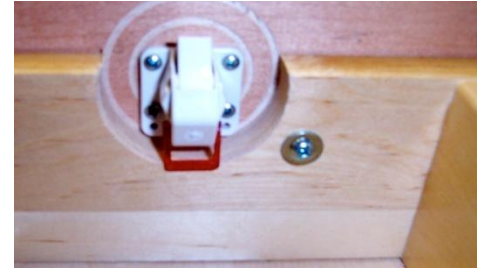
## *Interior view – Cabinet Doors*

- **Framed or Frameless?**
  - Frameless may require creativity.
- **Older style routed doors?**
  - Catch may need to be recessed or not installed.



# *Interior view – Cabinet Drawers*

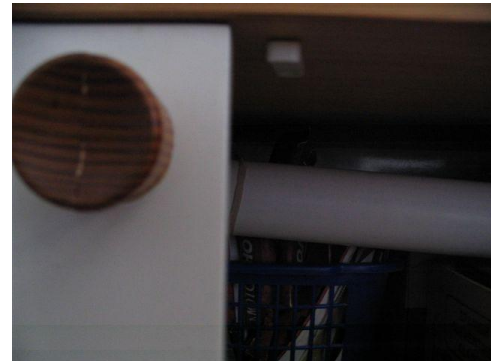
- Is the drawer front double layered from a drawer box?





## ***Interior view – Cabinet Drawers***

- **Is the top of the drawer box within a ½” or greater than ¼ ” from the frame above?**  
Catches will fit in.
- **Is the frame above horizontal or vertical?**  
Determines depth allowance of catch.



## *Interior view – Cabinet Drawers*

- Is there a frame above the drawer?
- Is there at least  $\frac{1}{4}$ " between the drawer box and side frame?

**No?**

Try Wonder latch, mount latches sideways, etc.



# Special Situations

- *Lazy Susans*



- *Top lift chests and laundry chutes*



*When all else fails...*



# Cabinet & Drawer Latches

## Other Tools:

- Spacers & Longer Screws
- Right Angle Screwdrivers, stubby drivers
- Replacement Knob Screws
- Rotozip, hole saw and dremels

## Other Tips:

- Multiple drills
- Sharp bits, the right size driver tip
- Consistent placement
- Check appliance placement next to cabinets

**New Member Questions?**