

HOW TO MAKE IT WORK

■ Request adjustable shelves as your storage needs may change. Heavier items should be stored at floor level, while the top shelves are ideal for items such as festive tableware that are used infrequently.

■ **If you have a free-standing larder, ask for a hidden plinth set far back. This makes the floor easier to clean.**

■ Soft-close mechanisms make doors safer. They close silently and smoothly, ensuring

contents of door racks stay put. Sensys hinges by Hettich, 020 7841 1170, hettich.com/uk, have a soft-close system that's built in.

■ **If the top shelf is hard to reach, a set of small steps can**

be hung on the inside of the door for easy access.

■ Internal lighting enhances visibility. Choose lights that activate when the door is opened to save energy. Try Sensio, 0845 034 0780, sensio.co.uk.



CUPBOARD LOVE



A statement larder was at the top of Amy and Andrew Lindsay's wish list when they installed a new kitchen in their recently extended west London home. The most sensible place for the larder was at the head of the kitchen but steps leading to the adjoining living room were in the way so, instead of full-length doors, designer Tim Higham devised a clever compromise. What he came up with was a section of drawers at base level, below the main larder doors, which allows the doors to clear the steps while still offering lots of storage inside. "We like to create deep 'spice racks' for bags of flour and drinks

cartons," explains Tim. "This means the main shelves inside are more shallow, so it is easier to reach the back."

Keen to free up as much worktop space as possible, Amy asked for her microwave to be stored within the larder. A chunky surface was installed at waist height to provide access to it, as well as a sturdy base for other heavy items. The larder is divided in the centre to allow for shelf adjustment on each side. "Full-width shelves look good but, for just one or two tall items, it means you have to commit an entire shelf to that height, which means losing precious storage," says Tim.

THE DETAILS

DESIGNER Tim Higham, Higham Furniture, 0800 047 0235, higham.co.uk.

THE BRIEF To create a statement larder that would be the main focal point of the room, while also storing the majority of dry foodstuffs, as well as a microwave.

BUDGET Around £20,000.

SOURCES Furniture and worktops, Higham, as before. **Cooking appliances,** Siemens, 0844 892 8927, siemens-home.co.uk. **Fridge-freezer,** LG, 0844 847 5454, lge.com. **Sink and taps,** Franke, 0161 436 6280, franke.co.uk. ▶