Throughout the day and over the seasons, the lighting conditions in your home will change frequently. Situations include:

» Tasks that take you from LED under-cabinet lights, then to overhead fluorescent or incandescent fixtures.
» A day that transitions from bright sunlight to a more diffused overcast.
» During meal prep you may have every light in the kitchen on.
» Your lighting scheme includes dimmers or candlelight.

Bonus tip: If you have samples of your backsplash material, wall color, countertop and flooring, place the door nearby to see how all of the colors and textures go together. In general, lighter cabinet colors will reflect the surrounding colors more noticeably than darker colors.

All of these lighting conditions—and the shadows created—will have an effect on the appearance of your cabinets. For these reasons, we recommend that you get a door-size sample of the wood species, color and finish enhancement package you are considering. Prop the door up in different areas of the room it will be in, ideally for a day or two in each location. Notice how the color changes throughout the day and into evening.