Under-Stair Cupboards: Making an Awkward Space Useful

Under-stair storage is most effective when each part of the sloping space has a suitable purpose. Tall sections may hold coats or equipment, while lower areas need a different access strategy. Start by measuring the available shape and identifying services before choosing doors, drawers or pull-out units.

Assign contents by height

List the items you want to store and compare them with the space beneath the stair. Tall cleaning equipment will need a different section from shoes or bags. Avoid dividing the whole area into equal compartments simply for visual symmetry. Internal proportions should follow the contents and the available height.

Check how items come out

A deep compartment can be difficult to use if its entrance is small. Consider whether shelving, hinged doors or a pull-out arrangement offers appropriate access for each section. Check the clear floor space needed when the storage is open and make sure it does not obstruct an important walking route.

Respect the existing structure

Identify any services, inspection points and structural elements before designing around them. Maintain the necessary access and have alterations assessed by the appropriate professional. The joinery proposal should fit the confirmed site conditions; it should not rely on removing or enclosing elements that have not been checked.

Keep the frontage controlled

Choose whether the cupboards should blend into the wall or become a distinct furniture feature. Review handles, panel divisions and the junction with the staircase together. Once the practical arrangement is resolved, a simple, consistent exterior can help the area feel organised rather than drawing attention to every change in shape underneath.

Send Fabbro photographs and a measured outline of your under-stair area to discuss storage possibilities.