Chief Architect®

Architectural Home Design
Software

Using Custom Object Fields

Reference Number: **KB-03241**

Last Modified: **March 5, 2026**

QUESTION

How do I create a Custom Object Field to report a specific object property or measurement within a schedule?
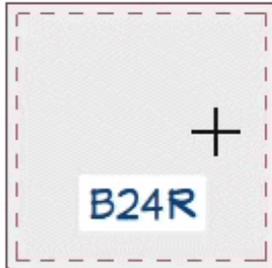
ANSWER

Custom Object Fields, which allow you to create custom columns in schedules as well as specify the data that goes into those columns for each object, can be created in an object's specification dialog or an object's defaults dialog.

Before a Custom Object Field is created however, you may want to see a list of properties, or name-value pairs (NVP's) associated with that object. This can be done using the Object Properties macro.
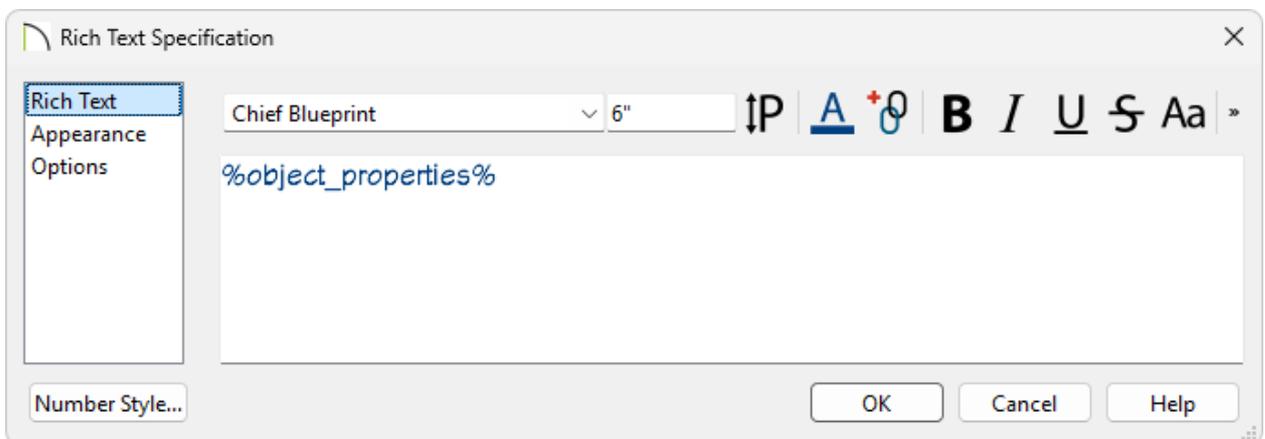
Using custom object fields

1. While you're in your desired project, navigate to **CAD> Text> Leader Line** from the menu, then draw a leaderline starting

from the object that you want to view the properties of.

2. In the **Rich Text Specification** dialog that opens next, type %object_properties% in the input field, then click **OK**.

3. A large amount of object information will populate in the plan; locate the property or measurement that you want to create a Custom Object Field for and take note of the name-value pair, which is located on the left side.

   In this example, we want to report the Countertop Thickness to a schedule, so we have located this measurement and have noted that it uses the countertop_thickness name-value pair.

```
backsplash_thickness -------------------- 0.5 in ----------------------- Measurement
backsplash_thickness_is_default --------- true ------------------------- TrueClass
bevel_inset -------------------------- 0 in ----------------------- Measurement
bow_depth --------------------------- 0 in ----------------------- Measurement
box_construction ----------------------- "Frameless" ------------------ String
box_construction_name ------------------- "Frameless" ------------------ String
box_finish_description ----------------- "" ------------------------- String
box_interior_material ------------------   -------------------------- NVPublisher
    id ------------------------------ 74 -------------------------- Integer
    is_default ----------------------- true ------------------------ TrueClass
    name --------------------------- "Pewter Tankard (SW 0023)" ------ String
box_material -------------------------   -------------------------- NVPublisher
    id ------------------------------ 74 -------------------------- Integer
    is_default ----------------------- true ------------------------ TrueClass
    name --------------------------- "Pewter Tankard (SW 0023)" ------ String
box_material_description ---------------- "Pewter Tankard (SW 0023)" ------ String
build_bottom ------------------------- "Auto" ----------------------- String
build_top --------------------------- "Auto" ----------------------- String
cabinet_corner_type -------------------- "None" ----------------------- String
cabinet_corner_width ------------------- 0 in ------------------------ Measurement
cabinet_corner_width_is_default --------- true ------------------------- TrueClass
category ---------------------------- "Standard" -------------------- String
comment ----------------------------- "" ------------------------- String
component_code ----------------------- "" ------------------------- String
corner_pilaster_depth ------------------- 0 in ------------------------ Measurement
corner_pilaster_description -------------- "" ------------------------- String
counter_material ----------------------   -------------------------- NVPublisher
    id ------------------------------ 90 -------------------------- Integer
    is_default ----------------------- true ------------------------ TrueClass
    name --------------------------- "Everleigh" ------------------- String
countertop_actual_overhang_back ---------- 1 in ------------------------- Measurement
countertop_actual_overhang_front --------- 1 in ------------------------- Measurement
countertop_actual_overhang_left ---------- 1 in ------------------------- Measurement
countertop_actual_overhang_right --------- 1 in ------------------------- Measurement
countertop_corner_type ----------------- "Rounded" -------------------- String
countertop_corner_width ---------------- 0.375 in --------------------- Measurement
countertop_corner_width_is_default ------- true ------------------------- TrueClass
countertop_overhang -------------------- 1 in ------------------------ Measurement
countertop_overhang_back --------------- 1 in ------------------------- Measurement
countertop_overhang_back_is_default ------ true ------------------------- TrueClass
countertop_overhang_front -------------- 1 in ------------------------- Measurement
countertop_overhang_front_is_default ----- true ------------------------- TrueClass
countertop_overhang_is_default ---------- true ------------------------- TrueClass
countertop_overhang_is_uniform ---------- true ------------------------- TrueClass
countertop_overhang_left ---------------- 1 in ------------------------- Measurement
countertop_overhang_left_is_default ------ true ------------------------- TrueClass
countertop_overhang_right --------------- 1 in ------------------------- Measurement
countertop_overhang_right_is_default ----- true ------------------------- TrueClass
countertop_thickness -------------------- 1.5 in ---------------------- Measurement
countertop_thickness_is_default ---------- true ------------------------- TrueClass
custom_fields ------------------------- {} ------------------------- Hash
custom_pattern_x_scale ----------------- 1.0 ------------------------ Float
custom_pattern_y_scale ----------------- 1.0 ------------------------ Float
depth ------------------------------ 24 in ----------------------- Measurement
```

4. **Select** and **Open** the object that you want to create a Custom Object Field for.

   You can also navigate to **Edit> Default Settings** , then access the object's defaults dialog for the object you're wanting to create
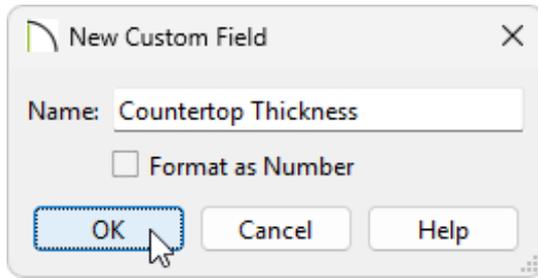
the Custom Object Field for.

In this example, we have opened a single base cabinet up to specification.

5. Access the OBJECT INFORMATION panel, then click the **Create New Field** button under the Custom Object Fields section.

- In the **New Custom Field** dialog that opens next, specify an appropriate **Name** for the Custom Field, check the **Format as Number** box, if applicable, then click **OK**.

   In this example, Countertop Thickness is specified as the Name and Format as Number is unchecked.

- o With the field now created, a Field Value can be specified in the object specification or within the object's defaults dialog.
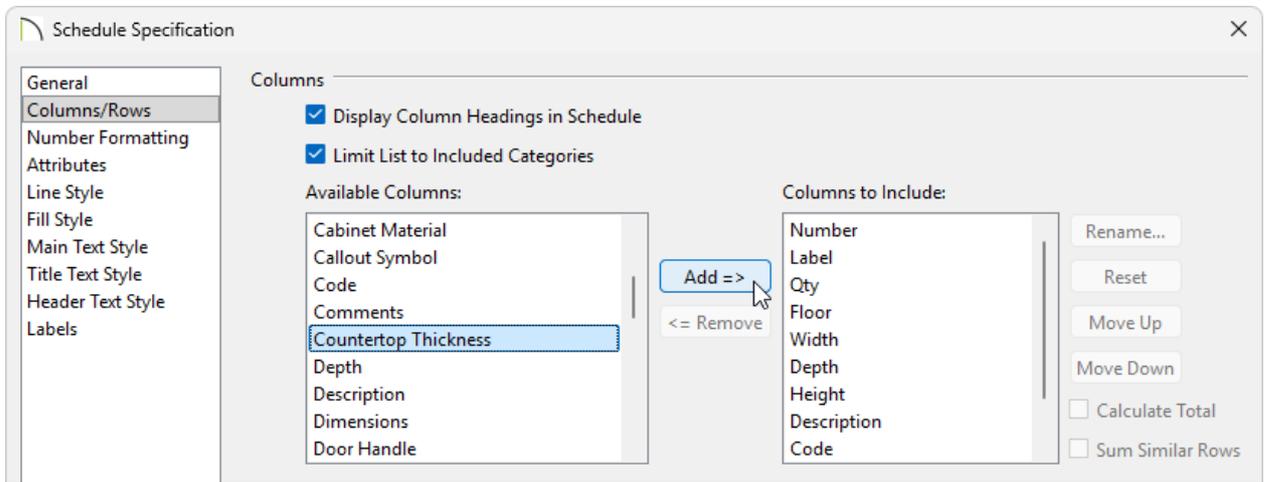
  In this example, %countertop_thickness%" is specified. Note that the % symbol is placed at the beginning and end of the initial name-value pair, and an " symbol is placed at the very end of the string.

- o Click **OK** and, if applicable, **Done** to confirm the changes.

6. If a schedule has not already been created, create one by navigating to **Tools> Schedules** from the menu.

7. **Select** and **Open** the schedule up to specification.

8. In the **Schedule Specification** dialog:

- On the GENERAL panel, specify the desired Include Options, then ensure that the Include Categories list includes the object that you created a Custom Object Field for.

    In this example, a cabinet schedule was created, so a majority of the cabinet types are already selected for inclusion.

- On the COLUMNS/ROWS panel, the Custom Object Field will be listed in the Available Columns; locate this column, then click the **Add** button to add it to the Columns to Include section.

- Make any other desired changes to the schedule, such as to the order of the Columns to Include list, then click **OK**.

Notice that the new Custom Object Field now displays as it's own column in the schedule, and it reports the name-value pair associated with the object.

NUMBER	COUNTERTOP THICKNESS	LABEL	QTY	FLOOR	WIDTH	DEPTH	HEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
C01	1.5"	B24R	1	1	24"	24"	36"	BASE CABINET

The Field Value of a Custom Object Field can be edited at any time by accessing the object's specification or object's defaults dialog.

To delete or edit Custom Object Fields, access the **Default Settings** 🔧, expand the **Schedules** category, select **Custom Object Fields**, then click **Edit**. Note that Field Values cannot be specified or managed in this dialog.

Related Articles

📄 Creating Custom Schedules (/support/article/KB-03120/creating-custom-schedules.html)
📄 Splitting a Schedule into Multiple Tables (/support/article/KB-03218/splitting-a-schedule-into-multiple-tables.html)

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