

Problem Solving for Problem Kitchens



Here are ten ideas to make your small or awkward kitchen a little more livable.

1. Organization is the key to working in cramped, heavily-used space. Store items near where they will be used.
2. Visually enlarge your kitchen by avoiding cabinets on every wall. Make the most of what you have by installing taller cabinets that reach to the ceiling, and store seldom used items on those higher shelves.
3. Traditional corner cupboards containing lazy susans or L-shaped cabinets with two doors allow needed items to be reached with a turn of the wrist.
4. Hang small racks or utensils on the insides of cabinet or pantry doors. Suspend larger ones from the ceiling to hold items such as pots and pans.
5. Small appliances such as coffee makers are made to fit under cabinets, clearing off counter space.
6. In base cabinets, roll-out shelves improve accessibility by bringing their contents out to you.
7. Drawers of varying shapes and sizes used in or between upper and lower cabinets increase both storage and design.
8. Use light paint colors and mirrors to give the appearance of a larger space.
9. Adding light fixtures under cabinets creates more functionality and depth to your counter tops.
10. Do not over-decorate. The simpler the design, the larger the room will feel.