

### Style

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1. Why do I want a new kitchen?
2. What's on the wish lists of others who use my kitchen?
3. Where can I incorporate current elements in the new kitchen?
4. What do I like and not like about my current kitchen?

What don't I like about how it looks?

Do I have enough countertop space for preparing meals?

Is my sink large enough?

Do I have enough refrigerator and freezer space?

Do I need more storage space?

Do I have enough shelf space?

Do my cabinet doors open easily?

Is there enough space for me to comfortably prepare meals and cook?

Do I need more space in the kitchen for working on the computer, paying bills, and other tasks?

Do I have a separate recycling area?

Do I have enough electrical outlets?

Can I adjust my cabinet shelves?

Is my dishwasher easy to load and unload?

Is fresh water easily accessible when I'm cooking? Do I need an additional sink or faucet?

Does the kitchen meet the special needs of family members?

Is my kitchen easy to clean?

Do I have enough light to work by?

Would I like more seating options?

5. What is the layout of my current kitchen? Draw a rough sketch of your floor plan and note the measurements of the cabinets, appliances, and countertop space; request a floor plan or blueprint from your architect or builder; or use the Kitchens.com Kitchen Measurements Guide.
6. What general style do I like—contemporary, traditional, or eclectic?
7. What is the architectural style of my home? Do I want my new kitchen to reflect this style?

8. What are some of the styles and products that I like—those I've seen in a designer's showroom, on Kitchens.com, in publications, or elsewhere? Compile a kitchen wish book. Stuff a folder or scrapbook with photos, drawings, descriptions, and lists of what you want in your new kitchen. Include examples of rooms, colors, layouts, and products that catch your eye. Don't censor what you include—save whatever says something to you, good or bad. Don't try to figure out exactly how each idea would fit into your current layout. Take your "scraps" to a kitchen designer who can help you sort them out and pull together a kitchen with your favorite features.

9. What do I like about my friends' kitchens? Snap photos of your favorites.

10. What colors do I like? Which ones do I dislike?

## F u n c t i o n

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1. Who will be using the kitchen?

How many people will use my kitchen?

Will young children or elderly family members use the kitchen?

Does anyone have special needs?

Where do I expect to eat meals after the new kitchen is completed?

Do I require a kitchen table?

What other activities will take place in my new kitchen?

Laundry?

Homework?

Watching TV?

Paying bills?

Working on the computer?

2. How will I use the kitchen to entertain?

Do I plan to entertain frequently?

What is my entertainment style—formal or informal?

Do I typically cook the food myself or have the party catered?

How many guests do I typically invite?

Do my guests always end up in the kitchen?

3. What are my storage requirements? What storage improvements would I like to see in my new kitchen? Inventory your current kitchen. Looking at what you have in your kitchen now, where would you want to put it all in the new one? Would you like your new kitchen to have a special spot for storing trays, cookie sheets, and other flat items, for example? Taller shelves for storing wine glasses and vases? A recycle center? Consider how you shop for groceries—for the week or for each meal? Buy in bulk and freeze? Buy nonperishables in bulk? Write down every idea that comes to mind—resist saying to yourself that there's no room for that recycle center. If you need it, it's likely a design professional can help you find a place for it.

4. What is my cooking style?

Who is the primary cook?

Is the primary cook left- or right-handed?

How tall is the primary cook?

What is the primary cook's cooking style?

Gourmet?

Family?

Quick and simple?

Takeout?

Baking?

5. What atmosphere does the primary cook prefer when preparing meals?

No one else in the kitchen?

A helper in the kitchen?

Family and friends visiting and helping?

6. Does the primary cook have any physical limitations?

7. Who is the secondary cook?

8. Do they prepare meals together?

9. Is the secondary cook left- or right-handed?

10. How tall is the secondary cook?