

Design a kitchen that suits you

Where do most women spend the biggest share of their time? In the kitchen, of course—cooking, eating, talking, working on hobbies, making shopping lists! Kitchens serve a wide variety of purposes in the typical home.

Not all kitchens are alike either. One kitchen design won't do the same job for a bachelor as it does for a family of 10. The needs are different. The life styles are different. Is your kitchen you—or is it just another room in the house?

Kitchens should be designed especially for the people who use them. For instance, do

you like to cook try out recipes, collect cook-books? Or do you regard cooking as something to be done as speedily as possible?

Are you the only cook in the family or does your husband like to make food preparation a joint project?

This one fact will largely determine how much working area you'll need. If you like to mix cooking with talking, a preparation area and dining center combined in one room may be the answer.

Of if you're an "everyone stay out of my way so I can get something done" cook, you can install dividing counters for privacy.

Do you and your children work on hobbies in the kitchen? Plan a desk or work table area where adequate lighting is available. If you're a gourmet cook with a large assortment of special-use tools, utensils, spices and herbs, you're going to need some extra storage areas.

Just because the rest of your house is

decorated in Early American, you don't have to have maple cabinets in the kitchen too.

For a new warm, solid look, try oak! The distinctive grain and rich color of Sheffield Oak, a new wood variation by Mutschler, can give your kitchen a sociable and homey atmosphere with just the right touch of massive elegance! There's a big selection of other woods that create specific moods for cooking.

Do you want a kitchen that incorporates all the latest design and space-saving devices? If you treasure the mellow charm of some loved possessions that have come to be a part of living, you may need a display area.

Do you eat informally in the kitchen around a big table near the stove? If yours is a white-tie-and-tails family, you may want to enclose the work area by suspending cabinets from the ceiling for a divider effect.

Make an "I wish" list. Let yourself go. Decide who you are and what you want your kitchen to do. Make this a rapid-fire enumeration of what you would like if you could "have your druthers."

Don't let practical considerations of what you believe is possible or impossible, either financially or architecturally, enter into this list. In kitchens, it is planning, not dollars, that makes the difference.

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There should be room for highball, old-fashioned cocktail and liqueur glasses; for a cocktail shaker and mixing pitcher.

The pleasure of convivial cocktails before dinner shouldn't wear out the hosts before the evening has barely begun.

A built-in bar adds personality to your room, and makes it easier for guests to help themselves if they wish.

And the cost is repaid by all that between-room walking cocktails and canapes you used to require.

The plus is the fun of relaxing with your guests.

This week's conservation tip

How to fix a leaky faucet

DRIP, DRIP, DRIP, DRIP

One drip per second from a leaky hot-water faucet or shower-head sends about 175 gallons a month down the drain. That's cash down the drain!



The compression tap is the most common type found in Canadian homes. The flow of water is regulated by turning a handle which is attached to a threaded spindle. When the spindle is turned down, the washer or disc attached to the bottom of the spindle is pressed tightly against a smoothly finished rim or ground seal to shut off the flow of water.

If this doesn't make a good contact, usually because of a worn-out washer, water will leak through.

You'll need a wrench, screwdriver, fiber or composition-type washers and adhesive tape. The washers should be a good grade; start with 3/8 inch, 1/2 inch and 5/8 inch.

1) Turn off the water directly below the tap or if there isn't a shut off valve, turn off the main water supply.

2) Drain all taps that are higher in level in the house than the one that you are going to work on. Otherwise the water will back up when you take the tap apart.

3) Wrap adhesive tape around the bonnet to prevent it being marked by the wrench.

4) Take off the handle by removing the screw that holds it to the top of the spindle. There may be a knurled nut or snap-on button over the screw-head that you will have to remove first. Remove the bonnet by turning counter-clockwise with a wrench.

5) Slip the spindle out of the bonnet and remove the washer by taking out the screw that holds it in place.

6) Replace it with a washer of identical size. If the washer is chewed up you will have to check the bottom of the inside of the tap for any damage.

7) Wipe the inside of the tap to remove any metal chips.

8) Put the bonnet over the spindle and check the packing on the outside. If it's worn, replace it with impregnated cord that you can buy at your local hardware. Wind the cord clockwise from bottom to top.

9) Reset the bonnet and spindle but don't tighten the spindle in the seat.

10) Tighten the bonnet by turning clockwise until it is secure.

11) Replace the handle, turn on the water and you have just finished fixing your first tap.

CUT-AWAY OF WATER TAP

