

Home & Garden

Kitchen is the most complicated room in house to design

When you consider all its built-in features, the kitchen is the most complicated room in your house to design.

Start your design process by

locating the three most-used elements in a kitchen: the sink, stove and refrigerator.

It's best to situate these components so they form a working triangle with a perimeter of 12 to 24 feet.

Be sure to have a lighted and vented

hood above the stove or cooktop.

A peninsula cabinet with a counter provides a convenient preparation area and helps to separate the kitchen from the adjacent dining area.

The dishwasher usually should be located near the sink and below the dish cabinet in order to minimize the motions when loading and unloading the dishwasher.

If your plan allows, locate your sink below a window to provide plenty of natural light when cleaning up.

It's a good idea to select your major kitchen appliance as well as your sink before you design your cabinet system.

Each major appliance will come with a specification and installation guide that gives dimensions needed for rough openings in the cabinets.

Use a planning system to help you visualize the placement of new cabi-

nets and appliances.

Modular, reusable designs kits help you determine the shape and plan of your dream kitchen.

Experiment with different arrangements and determine how they affect the optimum kitchen work triangle.

Shelf shopping
A variety of shelves and pullouts make the best use of a cabinet's interior space.

Adjustable shelves provide more flexibility because they allow you to change shelf spacing to accommodate different size items.

Racks, lazy Susans and special pull-outs provide simple solutions to storage problems of trash bags, bulky kitchen utensils, bottles, cans and pots and pans.

This article is from Home Depot's Home Improvement 1-2-3 book.

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