

## “MERRI’S KITCHEN CORNER”

### How to Plan your new Kitchen

As your kitchen designer, I like to center our early discussions on the work center concept. The basic idea is that any work station, whether a carpenter’s bench or a kitchen work area should be set up to accommodate the specific details of the work to be performed.

- Tools and supplies that go with the work should be handy, but not in the way.
- Work surfaces should be placed at the correct height and made of the most appropriate materials.
- The best and most convenient storage locations should be allocated to the tools and supplies used most frequently.

Kitchen researchers define three primary kitchen work centers reflecting three very different types of kitchen activities. (Clean up, mixing, and cooking)

- **Clean up** - The clean up center includes the sink, a place to stack dirty dishes, cleaning supplies, probably a place for a drain board, and often storage for everyday dishes. A dishwasher and trash can are essential and the counter top should be water-proof and water resistant.
- **Mixing** - The Mixing Center (or food preparation center) should be organized around the premier work counter, with easy access to favorite knives, utensils, bowls, and small appliances. Sometimes “butcher block” are used here although many prefer movable chopping boards.
- **Cooking** - The Cooking Center includes the stove, oven(s), another counter top, a heat resistant surface to place hot dishes, and those tools and supplies used primarily at the stove, such as pots, pans, lids, spatulas, pot holders, and perhaps spices.

The interview with my prospective client along with utilizing the above steps helps to set in motion the perfect functional and aesthetically pleasing design.

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