

8 keys to design your perfect kitchen



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8 keys to design your perfect kitchen

SILESTONE
—
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—
SENSA

→ 06
00
INTRO



→ 12
02
LIGHTING



→ 14
03
FURNITURE



→ 16
04
MATERIALS



→ 22
05
APPLIANCES



→ 24
06
STORAGE



→ 26
07
COLORS



Index



Intro

The dream of having a perfect kitchen is closer than ever. Here, you will find 8 key elements to take into consideration as you embark on your kitchen remodel project.

Let's get to work!



01/ Distribution

Finding the right kitchen layout for your space is an essential step in the remodeling process.

The layout will not only inform the design, but also the functionality of the space.

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Designer

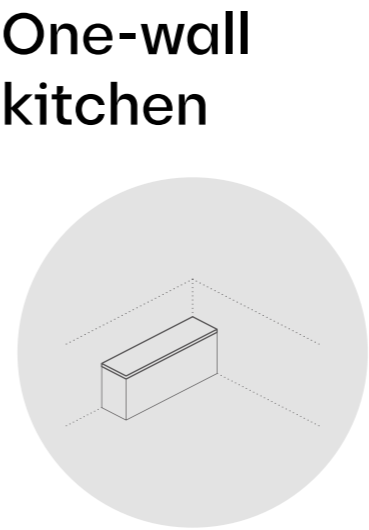
Theresa Casey

silestone® CALACATTA GOLD

What layout types are there?

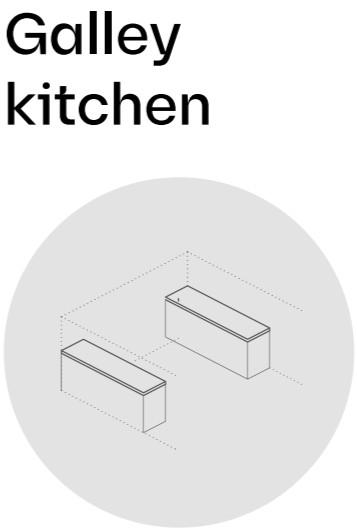
Selecting your desired kitchen layout is key in achieving a comfortable and functional space that adapts to your lifestyle.

Take a look at the different layout options, which will adapt to the intended shape of the kitchen surface.



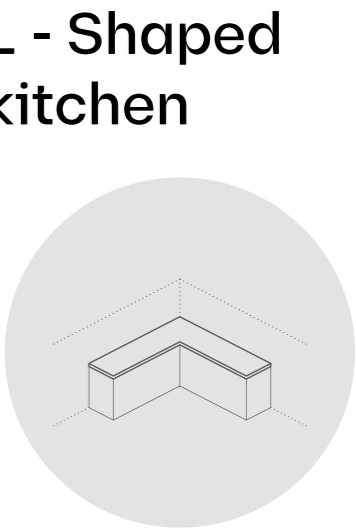
This is the simplest option of all, as it allows the kitchen to be laid out lengthwise against one wall.

Most commonly used for very narrow kitchens where furniture cannot be fitted on both sides.



This layout is composed of two parallel sections against two opposite facing walls. A perfect solution for long kitchens, as it allows you to make the most of the space.

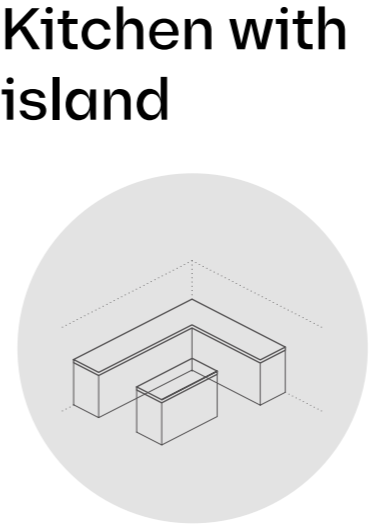
We recommend leaving an approximate distance of 50 inches between both sections. This will make appliance usage and movement within the kitchen as fluid as possible.



As the name suggests, this layout is formed by two adjacent walls connected by a corner.

This commonly used layout allows you to install the cooking area at the intersection to streamline movement and make cooking easier.

Perfect for small kitchens, as it leaves a wall free to be used for other purposes.



This layout has a low central section in which people can move around, with the higher units installed on the walls.

A highly recommended option for wide, square spaces. The island can be used as an extra work space, or for installing a sink or cooking area..

This layout requires a minimum amount of space to be functional. If there is not sufficiently space around the island it will make movement uncomfortable.



One of the most functional layouts, it creates balance and symmetry with its even 3-wall design. It provides the most counter space and room for extra storage.

This layout creates a work triangle in which your stove, sink, and refrigerator are in close proximity, making cooking easy.



A kitchen peninsula, as opposed to an island, is an extension of the existing countertops and cabinets, rather than a free-standing installation.

It provides additional storage and workspace, ideal for long and wide spaces.

02/
Lighting

How do I light the perfect kitchen?

Finding the right lighting is key in creating a kitchen that matches your personality and lifestyle.

Let’s explore the three key elements to keep in mind when lighting your space.

Functional

Provides intense and concentrated light on a particular surface, for example, the countertop, sink, or hob.

Ambience lighting

This is used to create a comfortable atmosphere in the kitchen and helps to light certain areas: a ceiling lamp over an island or the breakfast nook or lighting in a cabinet or storage area.

General

This creates uniform light throughout the entire room, for example, using ceiling, recessed, or built-in lights to create a cozy kitchen.



03/
Furniture

And what is the most suitable kitchen furniture?

Before choosing kitchen furniture, you should take into account three main factors: space, functionality, and style. Each factor encompasses infinite possibilities, letting you design a kitchen tailored to your taste and needs. We will show you how to distinguish between the materials that go into kitchen furniture.



Interior furniture materials:

Plywood base. Made up of scrap-wood compacted with epoxy or adhesive. This is a very affordable option and offers a wide variety of colors and textures. If you choose this type of material for the shell of the furniture, it is advisable that it have a hydrophobic base, i.e. that it be water-repellent, so that it doesn't swell.

MDF boards or medium-density fibreboard: a bit more expensive than plywood but higher quality. The top of the boards are covered in lacquer which means that, in case of bumps or surface scratches, they can be sealed again to repair the top.

Solid wood boards. Made out of very thin layers of solid wood. This is a very high quality option.

Surface furniture materials:

Plywood base. Lacquered furniture. These are made only for MDF bases. The higher the lacquer quality, the better the furniture will be. Not very resistant to dents, but can be repaired.

Wood veneer or solid wood. Truly classic, elegant, and timeless. The exterior wood must be treated properly, using varnishes, oils, or special treatments.

PVC or polyvinyl chloride. This consists of smooth layers of vinyl and imitation wood. This material is not very resistant to temperature changes and over time this will cause the vinyl finish to peel.

Melamine. This is an affordable option with good wear resistance. The finishes on the furniture edges is less than perfect, and this material is only available in matte finishes.

Laminated furniture. A less affordable option than the previous one, but very resistant to heat, water, and dents. Only available in smooth finishes. Thermo-structured surfaces. This is a good option if you want a finish that imitates solid coarse wood.

Discover the perfect one for you



04/ Materials

What makes a material
perfect for the kitchen?

Key materials involved in kitchen
design include the countertop,
flooring, and paving.

Countertop

Take a look at the available countertop materials on the market and find which one is right for you:

Laminates

Composed of plastic laminate material adhered to a solid foundation and available in a wide variety of colors and patterns. A good price to quality ratio, but you must be vigilant about possible leaks caused by improper installation.

Wooden countertops

These require increased maintenance, though this option offers an incomparably beautiful aesthetic. Not very resistant to scratches, dents, or humidity. In addition to the range of natural wood available, there are also options which imitate textures and finishes of wood, such as the Wild Collection by Dekton. Aldem and Valterra are the latest developments, in a gray hue and oak color, respectively.



Glass

Thanks to technological advances, glass countertops have become resistant to shock and scratches. Its translucency and the option to paint it using any color range has made this type of countertop a very popular choice.

Stainless steel

Waterproof material with excellent resistance to dents and high temperatures, which offers the possibility of creating large, seamless surfaces. In terms of weak points, this material does scratch easily.

Ultracompact

Uniform, strong, and durable material, with good resistance to water, staining, and corrosive products.

Dekton by Cosentino offers unmatched technical and aesthetic properties. The material mimics the look and feel with natural stone without any maintenance necessary. Available in a wide variety of colors, finishes, and thicknesses, Dekton offers resistance to scratches, stains, high temperatures, and even UV rays. The ideal work surface for a functional kitchen.

Marble

A very beautiful, fine, and decorative material. It requires specific maintenance and special care to keep it in tip-top condition.

If elegant and unique materials are your preference, Scalea is your your best choice, offering beautiful, natural wood, marble, basalt, slate, and travertine. A nod to elegant design, with a material that stands out in for beauty.



Granite

One of the most popular options, offering durability, a wide variety of colors, and various types of finishes: polished, glossy, and flamed (rough). Cleaning these surfaces is easy, and although maintenance is required, it is not excessively complicated.

Among the latest developments in granite countertops is Sensa, the natural granite surface by Cosentino with exclusive stain-repellent properties: the certified 15-year warranty makes it the ideal option if you want a surface that's resistant to scratches and stains, with an exclusive and unique style and character.

Hibrid Surfaces

A new category of surfaces for the new Silestone. It is composed of a hybrid high-performance blend of premium minerals, quartz, and recycled materials. It is manufactured sustainably with the cutting-edge HybriQ Technology, which uses 100% renewable electric energy, 99% recycled and reused water, and recycled materials in its composition

Available in a wide array of colors, finishes, and textures, it is the perfect option for a busy kitchen. The material is easy to clean and requires minimal maintenance, but be careful with high temperatures and avoid leaving hot pots or pans directly on the surface.

Paving or flooring

You can use laminate or vinyl flooring that imitates wood for any decorative style, since you'll easily find designs to suit contemporary kitchens, as well as rustic, classic, or nordic styles. Cement tiles, whether they be restored originals or imitation, allow you to create a vintage, eclectic, or contemporary designs, depending on the type of furniture you choose. Of course, there are also infinite porcelain designs to choose from.

On many occasions, people plan to use 'lifetime' materials, i.e. materials we're familiar with, but have you ever considered choosing the same material as you have on the on the countertops? Imagine the effect you could achieve by choosing a countertop like Silestone and also using it as flooring, with the same texture, finish, and color? The result would be spectacular, clean, uniform, and very modern.



Choose materials

- To choose the material to use for flooring and paving, you should take into account the following key points:
- Choose material that is particularly resistant to the humidity and condensation conditions created in the kitchen.
 - Try to select paving or flooring for which maintenance is efficient and quick, so that it can be easily cleaned.
 - Aim for proper integration with the rest of the kitchen's elements, such as the furniture, colors, countertop, etc. To achieve a uniform, functional, decorative, and solid result.

Did you know that Dekton surface plates can measure up to 3200 mm x 1440 mm?

Imagine the result of using this material that, in addition to being very attractive, meets all of the requirements you'd expect of a perfect kitchen: high resistance to UV rays, scratches, stains, flames and heat, abrasion, freezing and thawing, among other characteristics.

The importance of the backsplash

Don't forget the importance of the backsplash, the part of the wall by the sink and cooking area which is coated to protect it from spills and stains. Aside from the practical implications of coating the backsplash area, it can also be a way of completing the design of the kitchen. Over the past few years it has become customary to use tiles to cover this area, there are now various different materials and ideas for backsplashes, resulting in original effects. You can use the same material here as on the countertop to create a uniform effect, with a highly decorative as well as functional look. If you've opted for a Silestone countertop, why not also use this material for covering the backsplash.

If you choose a compact countertop like Dekton, you'll be able to enjoy a backsplash with high aesthetic quality and unmatched technical properties.



Silestone flooring has joints to avoid issues with expansion. It's very important to keep in mind that, for correct installation, the base of the floor must be very stable and perfectly leveled. This flooring is ideal for contemporary kitchens. The size of the tiles allows for large formats, reducing the number of joints. You can also use Silestone for designing stairs, bathrooms, showers, tables, panels, etc.

You can also choose one of the latest innovations in performance and design offered on the market: using countertop materials like the Dekton surfaces also as flooring. The thickness, which starts at 8mm, and size (up to 320 x 144 cm), makes this an ideal option for creating a contemporary, industrial, traditional, rustic, or Nordic style, depending on the model you choose.



05/
Appliances

What appliances
should I buy?

To select the right appliances, you must take lifestyle, needs, and budget into consideration. With so many options available, it can be complicated to find the perfect one. Follow these simple tips to make the process easier:

- 1 → Do your research on the different options available
- 2 → Think carefully about the intended use of the appliance
- 3 → Remember you can get appliances from different brands
- 4 → Keep your budget in mind when evaluating options
- 5 → Write down your priorities and nonnegotiables
- 6 → Choose between gas or electric cooktops
- 7 → Keep in mind that high quality materials and technology will be more expensive
- 8 → Calculate additional costs such as transportation, assembly, installation, and more
- 9 → Opt for at least two-year warranties on each appliance
- 10 → Measure the space several times to ensure accuracy



Selecting the right appliances

06/
Storage

Keep things tidy.

Incorporating storage in the design of your kitchen is key in ensuring order and organization. Plan for elements that allow you to keep utensils, accessories, and pantry items organized in a practical way that is easy to use.



Take advantage
of corners

Make the most of corners by installing a corner unit with removable trays. Bars for hanging utensils, spice racks, and dispensers for paper towels, aluminum foil, and plastic wrap will keep the countertop organized.



Managing waste

Explore the possibility of installing trash drawers under the sink. Thanks to extendable upper drawers you can take full advantage of free space by storing cleaning supplies.

Pantry organization

Keeping your pantry organized makes it easy to find what you're looking for quickly. Use removable trays in the upper units and higher trays and brackets for items that are not used daily. Make sure to put your most used items as eye level and take advantage of bins and baskets to keep things tidy.

07/ Colors

What about colors?

Color is very important in setting the tone for the space. Since we spend a lot of time in the kitchen, we recommend using colors that will not overwhelm or cause excessive heat. Colors such as white, gray, blue, and green are perfect to create a relaxing and harmonious kitchen.

If you're looking for a neutral aesthetic, add pops of color in accessories, décor, lighting, and accent furniture pieces. This way, you can easily change the color scheme of the kitchen without remodeling.



COSENTINO®

Ctra. Baza a Huércal-Overa, km 59 / 04850
Cantoria - Almería (España) / Tel.: +34 950 444 175
info@cosentino.com / www.cosentino.com



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