

FIND OUT IF IT'S TIME TO REMODEL YOUR KITCHEN

The National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) offers advice on when to update

Hackettstown, NJ - Most homeowners think their kitchen is outdated from the looks of their weathered cabinets, dated appliances and crackled countertop, but they don't realize is that there are many other reasons a kitchen *needs* to be remodeled.

This is why the National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) is offering the following tips, to start homeowners thinking about the current condition of their kitchen and to help them decide when the best time is to update.

- **Adequate space:** Make sure you're satisfied with the amount of counter space, cabinet space and floor space. The position of your refrigerator or shape of your counter may be taking away from a useful area. When replacing a countertop or changing the shape of your kitchen, keep in mind, a total of 158" of countertop frontage, 24" deep with at least 15" of clearance above, is needed to accommodate all uses, including landing area, preparation/work area, and storage.
- **Traffic flow:** If there's more than one cook in your household, you may want to consider making more room around the main work space. If you enjoy entertaining, you may want an open plan kitchen that allows for more social interaction between rooms other than the kitchen. According to the NKBA guidelines, the width of a walkway should be at least 36" and the width of a work aisle should be at least 42" for one cook and at least 48" for multiple cooks.
- **Efficiency:** If your appliances are dated, they may be costing you more money than you expect. New technological advances with dishwashers, disposals and refrigerators can save you a considerable amount of money and may be worth the investment. Purchasing a dishwasher with low energy consumption, delay timer, and economy cycle or half-load button will result in saving water, and money.
- **Children:** Depending on whether or not you have children, and their ages, your kitchen may *need* to be remodeled. Dated appliances and the design of your kitchen can be hazardous for young kids. If you are in the process of extending your family, you may even want more room for cooking larger meals, and lower cabinets for easier access to children's food. Based on NKBA's kitchen safety guidelines, microwave ovens should be installed 3" below the principal user's shoulder but no more than 54" above the floor to avoid accidents. The NKBA also suggests avoiding sharp corners on countertops with kids around.
- **Location & Design:** Maybe you'd like to add a deck to the side or back of your house and would like to incorporate a door into the layout of your kitchen. You also may want to re-arrange the position of windows to allow more or less sunlight or to watch your children play in the yard. When rearranging the layout of your kitchen, according to the NKBA, the clear opening of a doorway should be at least 32" wide, which would require a minimum of 2' 10" door, and a cooking surface should never be located under an operable window.

For more information about remodeling and the safety of your kitchen, to get some advice from a professional designer or request a FREE Consumer Workbook including a *Kitchen Evaluation* survey that will tell you exactly what needs to be remodeled in your home, or NKBA's full list of kitchen and bathroom guidelines, visit www.nkba.org.

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About the National Kitchen & Bath Association

The National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) is a non-profit trade association that has educated and led the kitchen and bath industry since 1963. With nearly 28,000 members and growing, NKBA owns the Kitchen/Bath Industry Show & Conference (K/BIS). The mission of NKBA is to enhance member success and excellence, promote professionalism and ethical business practices, and provide leadership and direction for the kitchen and bath industry.