

# HOME DECOR & MORE



## Must-Have Kitchen Remodel Features

Homeowners looking to renovate often see room for improvement in their kitchens and bathrooms. The National Association of Home Builder's Remodeling Market Index Survey, which measures conditions in the remodeling market, indicates that, in 2015, the two most common remodeling jobs were bathroom remodels (81 percent) and kitchen remodels (79 percent). According to HGTV and Statistics Brain, a new kitchen remodel for a kitchen measuring 12 by 12 feet may cost homeowners anywhere from \$17,000 to \$37,000.

Before investing so much into their remodeling projects, homeowners should think carefully about the features that will improve their time spent at home. When planning a kitchen renovation, homeowners may want to consider the following upgrades to make the room more enjoyable while improving its functionality.

### Oversized sink

Although high-efficiency dishwashers are popular, deep sinks to soak soup pots or woks are still useful. Deep sinks may be preferable to double sinks, especially for homeowners who use lots of kitchen tools when preparing meals.

### Soft-closing hinges

When replacing cabinets (or just the hardware), consider installing soft-closing hinges and slides on doors and drawers. These devices eliminate slamming and caught fingers, reducing noise and injuries in the kitchen.

### Foot-pedal water operation

When outfitting a sink, think about foot controls, which are popular in doctors' offices and hospitals. Turning on the water with the tap of a foot can reduce the transfer of pathogens to faucets from hands during food preparation. These pedals also free up hands for other tasks.

### Bottom's up

People likely spend more time raiding the refrigerator than the freezer on any given day. Rather than having to bend down to seek out that favorite flavor of Greek yogurt, choose a model with the fridge on top and freezer

on the bottom, especially if anyone in the household has mobility issues. When shopping for refrigerators, French-door style units may offer even more access, making it easy for homeowners to slide fruit trays, sheet cakes and other large items into the fridge.

### Extra lighting

A kitchen should be a balance of form and function. A combination of overhead lighting, decorative lighting and task lighting can illuminate all areas of the space effectively.

### A Child's Request

*(through the eyes of a child)*

Could you find me a circle of friends in a square  
 Could you please make them friends who really do care  
 I do wish for clowns with their noses of red  
 Or maybe some ponies or animals instead

For the child in all of us

Could you sing me the song of the wind and the wand  
 Could you tell me the story of the gold fish pond  
 Can you whisper my name and tell me it is true  
 That you once met an angel that watches over you

For the child in all of us

Could you tell me the tale of the puppet making man  
 Could you tell me the story of the crock and peter pan  
 Could you sprinkle magic dust into my hair  
 Please tell me the story that all of us share

For the child in all of us

Could you stay with me just for a short while  
 Can you make sure my dreams are dreams with a smile  
 Could you rock me to sleep in the way that you do  
 Please tell me the story please tell me it is true  
 That there is an angel an angel of blue!

For the child in all of us  
 Yes! Yes! Yes! Child there is  
 An angel of blue

God bless and thank-you  
 Thomas A. Marshall (ex-navy)



The Deadline for the September issue of  
**Shoreline**  
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