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Dos and Don'ts of Kitchen Design

OVER THE YEARS, KITCHEN DESIGN HAS EVOLVED AS MUCH AS HOME DESIGN. The classic *work triangle*, where kitchen efficiency measurement is determined by the distance from the front-center of the range to the refrigerator to the sink and back to the range, is not as applicable as it once was. Today's design is based more on flexibility and aging than traditional design.

Our clients prefer a kitchen that is open to the main living area. Kitchens have now become a gathering place for family and friends. When entertaining, kitchens frequently become the epicenter of activity. The *work triangle* has been replaced by the *floor plan triangle* – the eating area, kitchen, and family room. Due to the basic cost of square footage in today's housing, many owners are happy to give up the formal living and dining rooms as those rooms are rarely utilized. Instead, we create one larger eating area on the view side of the home, usually the rear, which becomes part of the triangle. This shift in floor plan design effects the overall kitchen design.

Here are some key components to successful kitchen design:

1. Locate the refrigerator on the outside edge of the space so that people can access the fridge without coming all of the way into the kitchen.
2. Keep the microwave oven at a height that is practical for all

family members. This usually means countertop height.

3. Keep the dishes that are used most at a convenient height for the young and old instead of in upper cabinets. We utilize dish drawers (see photo) as often as possible so that even someone in a wheelchair can easily unload the dishwasher.

4. Limit use of upper cabinets that are hard to reach and do not have efficient storage capacity.

5. Create a large walk-in pantry for food storage, bulk item storage, small kitchen appliances, and oversized serving utensils.

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