



Creating Your Custom Kitchen

NAVIGATING THE KITCHEN DESIGN JOURNEY



Imagine memorable moments and delicious meals shared with loved ones gathered around the table. For now, the kitchen at the heart of that vision does not yet exist.

To bring that dream to life, we encourage you to review this guide. We've compiled the most common decisions, considerations, and investments involved in creating a custom kitchen, and the steps we recommend you follow for the most seamless (and enjoyable) experience.

STEP ONE

START HERE

Does it seem premature to visit a [Sub-Zero, Wolf, and Cove showroom](#) right away? We think it's the best place to start. Whether you visit us in-person or virtually, our showrooms are the perfect place to begin your kitchen design journey. In this immersive and no-pressure environment, you'll get all the information and resources you need to begin your project. A helpful and knowledgeable consultant will cater each visit to your precise needs, helping you discover what your kitchen might feel, look, and taste like.



MEET YOUR DEDICATED RESOURCE

Throughout your entire project, you will be paired with a consultant to answer questions, provide helpful solutions, and offer advice and assistance.

VIEW AN ARRAY OF OPTIONS

No matter your style, find appliances that fit your taste. View an array of options and see what they look like in full-size kitchen vignettes.

TEST DRIVE APPLIANCES

Experience how your appliances will look—and perform. Turn knobs. Open drawers. Ignite flames. Experience your favorites to determine the best fit for you.

BE INSPIRED BY CHEF-LED DEMONSTRATIONS

Seeing appliances in action is an important step of the journey. Our chef-led demonstrations provide the opportunity to ask questions of the experts who use the appliances every day.

JOIN OUR FAMILY

Your relationship with the showroom doesn't end after your appliances are installed. You can expect a lifetime of support and helpful resources to help you gain the most out of your new appliances.



STEP TWO

SET PRIORITIES and *GATHER INSPIRATION*

Imagine all the ways in which you live, eat, cook, and clean in your kitchen and home. Explore questions, such as:

- *What do you enjoy about your current space?*
- *What challenges do you encounter?*
- *What areas cause frustration or stress?*
- *What type of food do you enjoy? Fresh? Frozen?*
- *Do you mostly cook quick, simple meals or take time for showstopping spreads?*
- *What beverages do you enjoy?*
- *Who does the shopping, cooking, and cleaning?*
- *How else do you use your kitchen? For entertaining? Homework?*
- *And many more...*

Next, gather inspiration. Take photos of favorite elements in the kitchens of your friends and family. Visit online sites, like Houzz, Instagram, and Pinterest. Flip through magazines in-print and online. Browse award-winning designs at trade association sites for kitchen and bath design and remodeling. This is another spectacular opportunity to [visit our showroom](#) and collect inspiration.

STEP THREE

DECIDE on your *INVESTMENT*



To determine the amount to invest in your kitchen, balance what you can afford with how your new space will enhance your life. What are your priorities—some of the answers to the questions above—and how do they align with your lifestyle? In smaller kitchens, focus on the fundamentals. To improve design and function for resale, highlight elements that could make or break a deal, like new appliances. If you enjoy hosting gatherings for family and friends, indulge in a kitchen that reflects and enables that passion. No matter the scale of your investment, **we recommend setting aside 10 to 20 percent of your budget for contingencies.**

STEP FOUR

FIND your IDEAL DESIGN PROFESSIONAL



To create a more functional and beautiful kitchen, you need a partner who will work with you to make your vision a reality. If you're building a new home, your architect will guide the design; if you're renovating, you may work with your remodeler or a kitchen designer. From an aesthetic perspective, a design professional can enhance your ideas and make your kitchen a unique and profound reflection of you. From a practical standpoint, they can save you money, time, and unnecessary complications. They'll also manage interactions with contractors and oversee your installation. [For a how-to on selecting a design professional, see our tip sheet.](#)

STEP FIVE

SELECT APPLIANCES

Appliances are critical to both the function and beauty of your kitchen—which is one reason why we suggest starting your journey at our showroom. The type of appliances you want will also help inform your layout. In addition to [full-size appliances](#), you may want specific appliances to support your priorities, like an [undercounter refrigerator](#) for instant access to drinks, a second [dishwasher](#) for entertaining, or a [convection steam oven](#) for delicious results without guesswork. Also, your material selections must fit with your appliance sizes, finishes, and colors.



STEP SIX

DESIGN your *LAYOUT*



The kitchen triangle is just a start for the design, supplemented by additional activity zones for healthful cooking, checking online recipes, finishing homework, and eating breakfast. Living spaces extend into kitchens today, with open concepts that include coffee or morning bars and dining and living rooms. Kitchen layouts include simple galleys, U and L shapes, and the double L, where an L-shaped island fits into the larger L defined by the kitchen. Your design professional will consider your priorities and preferences to create a kitchen that makes the most of your space and flows organically.

STEP SEVEN

CHOOSE CABINETS and *COMPLEMENTARY PRODUCTS*

Now, select the finishes for the rest of your kitchen, from the flooring up to the overhead lights. Keep track of your entire palette of materials on a selection board, with swatches of stainless, black glass, or color for your appliances, wood and stone types and textures for cabinets and countertops, and patterns and hues for tile and paint.



..... **Sinks** are the kitchen element used more than any other, so make this selection next. Sinks impact the size of cabinets and counters you choose, and you may want to add one to an island. Consider pot fillers and drinking water—in both hot and cold varieties. Select faucets and accessories at the same time.



..... Next, move on to **cabinetry**, the component of your project that has the biggest impact on timeline. In terms of color, almost half of kitchen cabinets are classic white, with grays and wood tones also popular. To lighten heavy, monochromatic walls of cabinets, today's designs often use open shelving and glass fronts. Homeowners often wish for more organizing features, so build in lazy Susans, pullout trash and recycling, rollout trays, and charging drawers for electronics.



..... **Countertops and tile selections** add aesthetically pleasing work spaces and accents to your kitchen. Most countertops today are made of engineered or natural stone or solid surface, supplemented occasionally with wood. If you choose stone or tile, try to see the exact slab or tile lot before ordering.



..... **Lighting** creates ambience. Your design professional will work with you to select the type and number of fixtures for every task and area, from recessed downlights overhead to pendants above an island to light strips under cabinets. For a harmonious look, you may also decide to coordinate the color temperature of each lamp. While your focus is upward, consider the dramatic impact of skylights or ceiling embellishments.



..... **Flooring** lays the foundation for function and style in the kitchen. Your floor must be comfortable enough to work on and durable enough to last for years. It's also an integral part of your design, the foil for every element above it. Popular choices include hardwood, tile, bamboo, and cork.



BRING *it all* **TOGETHER**

STEP EIGHT

ORDER your *APPLIANCES*

After you've selected your appliances, your showroom consultant will connect you with an appliance dealer. If you work with a Sub-Zero, Wolf, and Cove showroom, you'll be treated to a white-glove, concierge service that will make ownership that much more rewarding.



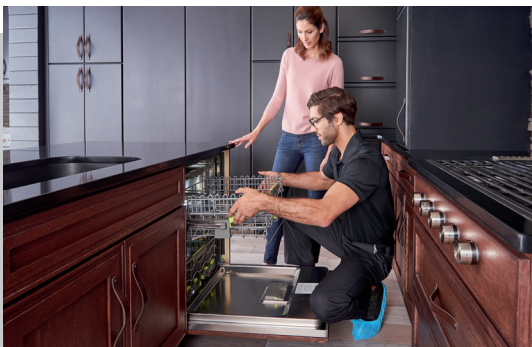
GET ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR DEALER

Visiting an appliance dealer may seem like an unnecessary extra step in your kitchen design journey. Dedicated appliance dealers offer value that other resources—like big-box retailers—can't. They work with professionals who will expertly install your appliances and will be your reliable point of contact.

STEP NINE

INSTALL your *KITCHEN*

You can now stand back while your design professional oversees your kitchen installation. If you're remodeling, your crew first needs to demolish your current kitchen and make structural changes, like moving walls and adding windows. From there, they'll rough-in plumbing and electrical, and follow with drywall and paint, flooring, cabinets, countertops, and lighting. Then, it's time to bring in appliances and plumbing fixtures. Finally, your team will add the finishing touches, including cabinet hardware and the backsplash.



ENSURE PERFORMANCE WITH PROPER INSTALLATION AND SERVICE

Your dealer will introduce you to a Factory Certified Installer (FCI), a professional who is specially selected and trained by Sub-Zero, Wolf, and Cove. FCI guarantees installation, service, and parts that are backed by the manufacturer and also extend your warranty. If you ever need service, our network of factory certified technicians provide exceptional, efficient service to assure your satisfaction.

STEP TEN

SAVOR the *RESULTS*

Look around and take in your vision, now made real. Your design journey is complete—and your new kitchen is ready to serve as the vibrant heart of your home for years to come.



— SHOWROOM —

Ready to begin your kitchen design journey?

Find a [Sub-Zero, Wolf, and Cove showroom](#) to get started. You can visit us in-person or virtually.
