

Kitchen Check List

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If you are about to buy your new kitchen it's worth carrying out a few final checks before handing over your deposit.

You will have made many choices along the way, and it would be a shame to incur additional costs to put right any mistakes made.

Over the past 30 years we have seen many simple mistakes made, and have listed below some of the most common.

Kitchen Plan ...

- Does it fit – Are the measurements correct?
- Have you identified the positions of potential problems (sink waste, stop cock, utility meters, window cill height, window opening, door swing, floor/wall boiler, existing electrical sockets, gas outlet, cooker hood ducting, and floor level, ceiling height)?
- Is the total sum of the unit/appliance widths less than the wall they are going to be placed on – both at base unit height and wall unit height?
- Is the total height of your highest cabinet less than the lowest point of your ceiling?
- Have you allowed the correct space for base/wall corner posts?
- Have you allowed space for any base/wall decorative end panel thickness?

Kitchen Cabinets ...

- Are the cabinet doors the correct range?
- Are the kitchen carcasses' the correct colour?
- Have you counted the quantity from the plan?
- Are the base cabinets Hi-Line or Drawer-Line?

Kitchen Cabinets continued ...

- Have you calculated (including mitres) the correct length of Cornice, Light Pelmet, and Plinth?
- Are corner cabinets the correct handing?
- Have you ordered the correct number of handles?
- Do the handles fit the profile on the door/drawer front?
- Are the handles horizontal or vertical?
- How many of your drawers work, and are not false?
- Is at least one drawer a minimum of 500mm wide (for cutlery)?
- Are your drawers “Self Close” and cabinet doors “soft close”?
- Are you sure you have the correct height wall cabinets?
- Is any tall housing/larder the correct height for your wall cabinets?
- Is any tall appliance housing the correct combination of doors to suit your appliance?
- Are you sure that all of your cabinets are the correct handing (open the right way)?
- Are your decorative end panels the correct height and depth?
- Have you included required filler panels?

Appliances ...

- Is your Sink a left or right hand drainer?
- Do the Sink bowls fit into your Sink Cabinet?
- Are the accessories for your Sink included (chopping board, baskets)?
- Have you ordered the correct plumbing kit (single bowl / double bowl)?
- Will the water waste pipe run behind adjacent freestanding appliances?
- Does your Tap require high pressure? (Most do, and most UK systems are low pressure)
- Does the Tap Spout reach over both bowls?
- Will your window opening be obstructed by the spout?
- Are your appliances the correct model (The single biggest mistake most people make)?
- Are your appliances the correct colour?

Appliances continued ...

- Are they the correct fuel (Electric, Gas or Dual)?
- Are you aware of the correct electrical feeds?
- Have you allowed for a separate electrical feed for an Induction Hob?
- Is your Cooker Hood recycling or ducted?
- Can you duct your Hood – have you checked outside for obstructions?
- Have you ordered the correct diameter ducting kit (100,125,150mm)?
- Will the depth (thickness) of your hob obstruct drawers underneath (remember worktop depths vary)?
- Is the depth of your American Fridge Freezer going to be a problem (they are deeper than your cabinets)?
- Hopefully, you have not designed your American Fridge Freezer to fit into a corner
- Does your American Fridge Freezer require a water feed for its drinks facility?
- Have you included a plinth vent for a Built In Integrated Fridge/Freezer?
- Is your Double Oven a “Built-Under” or “Built In” model?

Laminate Worktops ...

- Have you calculated the correct lengths required – including mitres?
- Have you included additional depth worktops to fit over freestanding appliances?
- Are the jointing brackets and edging strips included?

Solid, Resin Worktops (Granite, Quartz, Corian) ...

- Does your quote accurately represent the final design?
- Have you confirmed the colour choice?
- Have you confirmed the thickness?
- Is the “Edge Profile” correct?
- Have you specified Upstands, Splashbacks, and matching window cill?
- Does the cost include for every cut out (each Sink, Hob, Tap hole), and every polished edge?

Solid Worktops continued ...

- Have the “Butt Mitre” joint positions been decided?
- Are you aware the final cost will depend upon templating?
- Are you (and more importantly your Fitter) aware of the preparation work involved prior to templating?
- Have you factored the time between templating and installation (one to two weeks) into your fitting schedule?
- Has your fitter made arrangements for temporary worktops to allow the use of a sink during installation?

Kitchen Installation ...

- Is your Kitchen Fitter insured?
- Is your Kitchen Fitter electrically qualified (“Part P”)?
- Are you aware that it is highly likely your current electrical system does not comply with current “Part P” regulations and that you will have to pay for upgrade work?
- Is your Kitchen Fitter qualified to fit gas appliances, and registered with “Gas Safe”?
- Has your Kitchen Fitter provided a “Work Schedule” indicating what work is to be done each day?
- Has your Kitchen Fitter provided a detailed breakdown of his quotation?
- Has your Kitchen Fitter asked for full payment in advance? (Not a good situation)
- Has your Kitchen Fitter provided references?
- Have you taken these references up? Or visited any previous customers to check his standard of work?
- Do you have your Kitchen Fitters full name, address, and contact details?

Kitchen Contract ...

- Have you asked to see a copy of any terms and conditions provided by your supplier/fitter?
- Do you understand them?
- Have you checked all of the items you are buying are correctly listed?
- Have you checked all of the services they are providing have been listed?

Kitchen Contract continued ...

- Are you aware of all dates (Delivery, Fitting, and Templating)?
- Are you aware of all staged payments you have to make (Deposit, Ordering, Delivery, and Installation)?
- Are your payments protected via insurance schemes?
- Are your payments protected by paying by Credit Card?

Whilst not an exhaustive list, if you don't fall foul of any of the potential problems above ... you are well on the way to a successful kitchen purchase.

Good luck with your new kitchen – we hope it goes well for you.

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