

When it comes to creating a sense of space in your kitchen, less is definitely more. Uncluttered floor space and open countertops help to make a kitchen *feel* bigger no matter what its size actually is. This isn't to say that you are stuck with a sleek, contemporary look for your kitchen renovations, but it's something to consider when deciding on a décor or planning how many knick-knacks to display. The key is to use the space you have efficiently – that will keep your kitchen feeling open and spacious.

Floorplan: The kitchen layout is the place to start to create a sense of space. Make sure you have room for foot traffic to circulate and won't feel cramped when using the cooktop or washing dishes. If you have an adjacent family room or dining room, consider taking down a wall. The open floorplan will make your kitchen feel more spacious.

Storage: Adequate storage is absolutely essential to making your kitchen feel more spacious. Nothing shrinks your kitchen like clutter. Make sure you have cabinets, drawers, or hooks for everything that might otherwise end up getting stored on the countertops. Consider installing garages for frequently used appliances. Pot racks for pots, pans, and frequently used utensils use vertical space that might be otherwise ignored.

Floors: The smaller size is actually an advantage when choosing flooring because you don't have to pay for as much square footage, so you can afford to buy more expensive materials for your kitchen renovations. If you're selecting some kind of tile, purchase bigger tiles; paradoxically, they make a small kitchen feel bigger.

Lighting: Nothing can make a small kitchen feel more crowded than inadequate light. Be sure to plan for sufficient sources of natural and artificial light. Don't just have a centralized fixture on the ceiling, think about under cabinet and task lighting. You can also add fixtures on top of cabinets. They bounce light off the ceiling, adding to the sense of space.

Glass: Because you can see through them, cabinets with glass doors make your kitchen feel bigger; the same goes for glass tables. Also, think about mirrors or mirrored tiles in the backsplash as a way to create a brighter feeling in the room.

Color Scheme: Lighter colors usually make a room feel bigger. This adage doesn't just apply to the paint on your walls, but it should be a consideration when choosing cabinets and counters.