

# home design guide

january 2010



## kitchen & laundry design ideas

Sharing our perspective on kitchen and laundry design trends.

**Although the average home size of new home plans are getting smaller,** the kitchens in them are actually getting a little larger. A good rule of thumb for the minimum size of a functional modern kitchen is 10% to 12% of the floor plan area.

### Kitchen Design Ideas

One new idea in kitchen design is the slight reduction in the sometimes-hard-to-reach upper cabinets, and using the wall space instead for either magnetic strips for utensil storage, spice racks or open shelves. Awkward squat-and-reach base cabinets can be replaced with smart and accessible full extension storage drawers. Stacked glide-out trays are clever ways of retrofitting existing base cabinets with the same type of functionality.

New home buyers and home owners with kitchen remodel projects are still just discovering the convenience and functionality of new energy-efficient appliances with drawers, such as double-drawer dishwashers, refrigerator/freezer drawers and drawer-designed microwave ovens. The latest technology with these appliances give home owners a whole new way to use innovative design solutions in kitchens, outdoor kitchens, or even wet bars in recreational rooms.

These ideas for more efficient storage of cookware and dinnerware will reduce the need for upper cabinets, which in turn, allows exterior walls to have larger windows to brighten kitchens with sunlight and pass-through windows to outdoor living areas.

### Laundry Room Design Ideas

Laundry rooms should be designed with some extra floor space to store hampers and laundry baskets out of the way of foot-traffic. I call it the “laundry queue”, which resides right beside the washer and underneath a sorting counter. This works really well so families don’t have to step around piles of laundry on the floor or smelly laundry baskets.

For laundry room appliances, consider a super water-efficient and Energy Star rated front loaded washer and dryer. I strongly suggest equipping them with the pedestal drawers below them for added storage and also puts the washer and dryer doors at a very convenient height to eliminate bending. Another idea is to separate the two appliances enough to fit the laundry tower between them, which is an ideal place to store detergents and dryer sheets.

### Do you have questions about home design or remodeling?



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Years of research in custom home design, remodeling and home building has led Tony Weremeichik, Principal of Canin Associates' Architectural Design Studio, to be a strong advocate for home buyers and home owners to get the best design and construction value for their money. He leads clients and builders through a well-orchestrated design process that provides his clients with the utmost attention and creative design solutions.