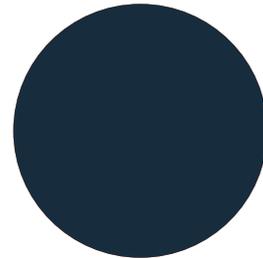


IMPROVEMENT CENTER



Kitchen Sink and Faucet Guide

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If the kitchen is the heart of the home, the sink and faucet are its shining centerpieces. Anyone who has ever worked with an unwieldy faucet knows the value of a sink and faucet combo that works well and blends in perfectly with your decor. Luckily, today's sinks and faucets offer advanced design as well as a huge range of style options.

Traditional Styles

Pay homage to the past with sinks and faucets that are as familiar as your favorite comfort foods. These traditional styles give even the most modern home a shot of warmth and old-fashioned character.



● Ceramic sinks

Deep ceramic sinks are a farmhouse staple that can take you back in time. To get a true antique look, find ceramic apron sinks at salvage yards or estate sales.



● Double sinks

These easy-to-use sinks have long been the standard for kitchens. For a more modern twist, consider the traditional double sink with a twin-control low-flow faucet.



● High-arch faucets

The classic lines of arched faucets never go out of style. Look for models with an antique finish to complement your ceramic sink.

Modern Styles

As technology advances, so do sinks and faucets. Modern kitchens break the mold with unusual shapes for sinks and even more unusual shapes for faucets, as well as “smart kitchen” conveniences.



● Adjustable faucets

Forget the days of faucets that could swing only from side to side. Adjustable faucets with two or three joints can be moved in any direction you choose, and they stay where you want them.



● Lighted faucets

Don't turn on that overhead light in the middle of the night when you need a glass of water. Lighted faucets that glow when you turn them on can make your nighttime sip a bit more peaceful.



● Unusual shapes

Who says your sink must be square or rectangular? Take a modern approach with a sink that is round or oval, or steal the look of the modern wet bar to create a sink that snakes across your counter in both a functional and unique style.

Accessibility Solutions

Universal design has become an important element of kitchen remodeling. Making your kitchen accessible for all members of your household should include sinks that are easy to reach, faucets that are easy to use, and innovative ideas for kitchen design that make everyday tasks easier.



● Faucets in unusual places

Consider faucets that make the most of your accessible design. For instance, a “pot filler” faucet mounted over the stovetop can make filling pasta pots a snap, while faucets mounted on the side of the sink rather than the back make them easier to reach.



● Lever faucet controls

Avoid faucet controls that require twisting, pulling or reaching. Lever controls can be pushed up and down with an elbow or the back of a hand.



● Single basin sinks

The trend toward single basin sinks can be suitable for any kitchen style, but it works especially well for the accessible kitchen by providing more room to maneuver pots and pans.

Health-Conscious Features

The healthy cook enjoys faucets and sinks that make it easier to avoid bacterial contamination. From faucets that don't require a single touch to operate to dedicated sinks that keep your foods separate, the healthy kitchen has it all and then some.



● Hands-free faucets

Faucets that start a flow of water with a simple wave of your hand keep germs away from the handles.



● Separate prep sinks

A small sink dedicated to cutting veggies, washing fruits, or even preparing meats for cooking can be a great way to keep your foods separate during meal prep.



● Pull-out faucets

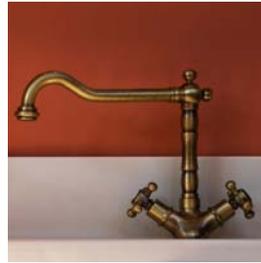
Faucet heads that pull out from the rest of the unit make for easy washing of greens and veggies, as well as short work of filling up that ungainly stock pot.

Popular Faucet Finishes

Your choice in kitchen faucets doesn't stop with the manufacturer and style; the options for finishes are wide and varied. Choose carefully, as the perfect finish can be the finishing touch to your kitchen design.

● Traditional

Ceramic, brushed nickel, satin nickel or bronze



● Modern

Polished chrome and nickel



● Industrial

Stainless steel



● Custom

Colored epoxy that can give you any look you desire



● Flexible

traditional brass works with almost any look



New Trends in Kitchen Sinks and Faucets

Some trends burst onto the scene and remain popular for years to come. Expect the following trends to be serious contenders for any future kitchen remodeling jobs:

✓ American Made

Brands that feature products made solely on American soil are always popular.

✓ Lead-Free

As more homeowners become aware of the impact of their remodeling choices on the environment and their own health, they are demanding safer products. One of those safer products is the lead-free faucet.

✓ Affordable

In an economic crunch, most pay closer attention to their bank accounts. Affordable sinks and faucets are surging in popularity, as well as vintage items that can be picked up at an antique or salvage store for a song.

✓ Energy-Efficient

Low-flow faucets have moved to the top of the list for many kitchen remodels.

The Bottom Line

The cost of your new sink and faucet can vary widely depending upon the style, finish, size and more. A basic kitchen faucet can be as low as \$25 to \$75, but that cost can rise with high-end models. For custom finishes and options, expect a faucet to cost from \$200 to \$600 and up.

A basic stainless steel kitchen sink can cost anywhere from \$40 to \$450. Designer models can run \$500 to \$2,500 or more. If you prefer a traditional white sink, expect to pay around \$100 for a standard model. These are ballpark costs and do not include installation.

Should You Work With a Contractor?

It's a good idea. With their contacts and deep discounts at home improvement stores, a contractor could help you quickly find the perfect faucet and sink at a great price.

You will probably use your sink and faucet on a daily basis, so keep searching until you find exactly what you want!

