



It is a rare home that has been designed with sufficient storage areas for all the items a typical homeowner has collected through the years. Surveys repeatedly show that homeowners place "more storage" near the top of the list of needs for their homes, and they identify the kitchen as one of the areas most lacking in adequate storage.

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Kitchen STORAGE SOLUTIONS

Double Your Storage With Simple Creativity

One of the most common complaints we hear from our clients is lack of storage space. What they don't realize is that even owners of the smallest homes can double their storage space with some simple but creative modifications. Here are some ideas:



Kitchen

- Appliance garages—special cabinets with roll-down doors—can hide items like toasters, mixers, and food processors to free up counter space. Extra-deep counters also make a difference.

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Recipes from Erich's Kitchen

While Erich isn't out with clients or working in the office, he is usually acting upon his passion for cooking. Come October, he'll tell you it's "Cooking Season" and you can find him in his kitchen just about every weekend. From chili, to soup, to a variety of meat entrées, Erich has perfected his cooking skills over the years.

He's always looking to try new things, but one of his all-time favorites is a Hamburger Stroganoff that his mother used to make when he was growing up. This recipe is great during the cold, winter months and is very simple to make. The ingredients aren't complicated, which makes it an easy "weeknight" meal. Try out this family favorite recipe and let us know what you think!

Hamburger Stroganoff

Ingredients:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ¼ C Butter | 2 T Flour |
| 1 lb. Ground Chuck | 1 t Salt |
| ½ C Minced Onion | ¼ t Pepper |
| 1 Clove Garlic | 1 C Sour Cream |
| 1 Can Mushrooms | 2 T Minced Parsley |
| 1 10 oz Can Cream of Chicken Soup | Joe's Stuff Seasoning (optional) |

Directions:

Brown ground chuck. Add onions and garlic and cook until tender. Pour off the grease. Add mushrooms, and soup. Turn to low and simmer for 10 minutes. Add 2 T flour, salt, and pepper to sour cream. Add sour cream and parsley to stroganoff. Serve over rice. For some extra zest, we recommend sprinkling a dash of Joe's Stuff Seasoning to finish off the entrée.

Kitchen STORAGE SOLUTIONS

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At the same time, homeowners today are actively removing their kitchen walls to create open floor plans. In order to expand existing kitchens beyond their original confines, homeowners are knocking down

kitchen walls that once may have provided floor-to-ceiling storage. The challenge, therefore, is to design a kitchen storage solution that optimizes every inch of space and functions well within an open kitchen layout.

When a kitchen has fewer walls, the available cabinets will become even more important for storage. In the past, they were often no more than big boxes fitted with doors and several immovable shelves. Not only is this

system inconvenient and awkward for the homeowner, it also is an inefficient use of available space.

Within an expanded kitchen space, a popular option is to design an island that not only can provide seating and food prep space, but also can provide additional storage underneath.

Wall cabinets can be designed floor-to-ceiling, to optimize wall space. The backsplash area can also be put to use.

Organization Options



- Corner slide out units with kidney-shaped sliding shelves utilize all of the dead space in a corner base cabinet, and give full access to all the items.



- Deep drawers offer more storage than cabinets with internal shelving. Full extension glides make all the content easily accessible, and a soft close mechanism closes the drawer without a sound. A deep drawer may open like a standard drawer, or may be concealed behind a cabinet door. Deep drawers often include removable pegs for stacking dishes or organizing pots and pans.



- A narrow stainless steel tambour unit provides hidden storage in close proximity to the work space.



- Pot and pan organizers offer enclosed hanging storage for these difficult to store items.



- A lift-up unit provides easy access to the interior of a wall cabinet, with a mechanism that keeps the door from opening further than desired.

HIDDEN GEMS

When homeowners decide to remodel, a frequent reason is the need for more space. Maybe they are expecting a new baby, or maybe they are starting a home business, or perhaps their elderly parents are coming to live with them.

Of course, one excellent option for increasing space in a home is to build an addition. This is usually the first solution that comes to mind, since an addition can be designed from the ground up to fulfill a homeowner's needs and vision exactly. In some situations, however, expanding a home—whether outward, upward or downward—is not possible. There may be legal restrictions, or the cost may be more than the homeowner's budget can allow.



VERSOTO Table Extension

Photo: Courtesy of Richelleu (www.richelieu.com)

A new addition is not the only solution to consider. Professional remodelers are able to think creatively about how interior space is arranged. They can often re-engineer the home's floor plan, improving the functionality of the interior space, without making changes to the footprint of the home. Square footage may be "stolen" from one room and used to enlarge an adjoining room. Walls can be removed and a large, open space created from two smaller rooms.

Sometimes the dimensions of a room cannot be altered. In this case, a remodeler can suggest ways of maximizing the space in that room. Perhaps it is a small kitchen where flexibility is important, since the kids like to congregate there after school, eat snacks and do homework. One idea is to design a kitchen island with a thick-edged countertop that can slide out to reveal a hidden cooktop. While the countertop is extended, it also forms a convenient dining/work surface. When it is retracted, there is more room to move



Photo: Courtesy of Richelleu (www.richelieu.com)

Sliding Worktop—extended to reveal the cooktop



Wall-bed open



Wall-bed closed

Photos: Courtesy of Showplace Wood (www.showplacewood.com)

about in the kitchen. Perhaps a tiny home office must double as a guest room. One solution is to fit the room with fully functioning tables that are concealed in cabinetry and then extended only when needed. A retractable wall-bed can be installed into the cabinetry, and the bed can "disappear" during the daytime. ■

New Product Introductions

RECEIVING ACCOLADES

The new 36 inch Jenn-Air Accolade downdraft ventilation system is capturing more than smoke and cooking odors. It is also capturing a lot of attention in the kitchen with its modern, yet subtle appearance that makes a powerful design statement.

Hand-crafted of stainless steel and glass, the arc-shaped ventilation system telescopes to 19 inches when in use and when not, it virtually disappears beneath the countertop. The curved, sculptural profile is designed to place ventilation power as close as possible to the cooking source. The high performance system removes cooking smoke at a rate of up to 1,200 cubic feet per minute (CFM).

The system is designed with concealed controls, as well as discreet LED lights that indicate fan speed and announce when the dishwasher-safe filters need cleaning. ■



Photo: Courtesy of Jenn-Air (www.jennair.com)

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Double Your Storage With Simple Creativity

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- Under-cabinet knife slats provide a protected spot to store utensils. Existing cabinets can be replaced with deeper or taller models that reach to the ceiling. Use the top shelves for rarely used items.
- Built-in refrigerators, perhaps faced with the same materials as your cabinets, can save space in a small kitchen.
- A separate pantry, which holds many items within easy reach, is another valuable storage space. Narrow, vertical areas can provide the perfect place to store mops and brooms.

- An island can improve traffic patterns in the kitchen while adding tons of storage. Slide-in cutting boards, pot racks, even an extra sink can be built in to make a big difference. Open shelves on one side can make food preparation quicker too.

Master Bedroom

- Under-the-bed rolling drawers can hold extra clothes or linens. A built-in cedar closet can keep your woolens safe from moths. This can be created from a portion of a current closet.
- Outfit your closet with double hanging rods, drawers, shoe holders, and hooks to create a space for everything.

Bedrooms, Living Rooms, or Dens

- Window seats and built-in book shelves can create a private nook while providing a place for books, toys, or linens.



Bathrooms

- Appliance garages work in the kitchen, so why not in the bathroom? A "garage" houses brushes, hair dryers, combs, and can include an electrical outlet, too. Medicine cabinets can be surface mounted or recessed between studs. Custom cabinetry affords optimal use of space. Vanity-to-ceiling and floor-to-ceiling built-ins that combine open shelves and enclosed cabinets are decorative as well as utilitarian.



- While standard height for most sinks is 30 to 32 inches, most adults can use a basin more comfortably when it's 34 to 38 inches high. This extra height allows for more storage; an extra shelf in the area below the basin and additional drawers on the sides.

Workshops or Garages

- Here, organization is very important. A place for everything and everything in its place can make a small space seem much more spacious. Pegboards can hold hooks for tools, paintbrushes, or just about anything. Accessories can be purchased to store small items like nails; some accessories hang right on the pegboard.

With a little creativity, your home can provide up to twice as much storage space as you're now using. For specific ideas for your home, give **Remodeling Designs** a call. We're full of ingenuity!