

# Measuring Tips and Techniques

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These tips will ensure you measure accurately and account for everything that will affect your kitchen's layout, so keep them in mind as you measure your space and create your plan.

- Make and record every measurement in inches only.
- Use a pencil when recording your measurements and drawing your floor plan, so you can make any corrections that may be needed.
- Do not measure your existing cabinets, if any. Measure your walls as if the room were empty.
- Record locations and measurements of all windows, doors, and any other gaps in the walls.
- Measure all doors and windows from the outside edges of the trim.
- Record the direction each door swings and which rooms are adjacent.
- Record locations and measurements of all fixtures, utilities, plumbing, lighting and switches, electrical outlets, and all other features.
- Record the locations and measurements of any appliances that you are keeping. This will ensure that your new kitchen is compatible with the appliances you intend to use.
- Keep in mind the measurements of any new appliances you plan to add to your kitchen. For example, a refrigerator needs at least 1/2" to 1" of clearance on both sides. If you are not sure, obtain the exact measurements and clearance specifications of your new appliances before you begin.
- When measuring ceiling height, record the locations and measurements of all soffits, transitions, vents, or other features.

# Layout Tips

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These tips center on practical considerations to ensure a safe and convenient kitchen design.

- **Avoid any layout mistakes that will prevent drawers, cabinets, or appliances from being able to open completely.**

- Opposite rows of cabinets should be at least 48" apart to allow doors on both sides to be open simultaneously.
- Avoid putting appliances in corners if there is going to be a cabinet perpendicular to the appliance.
- Consider the size of the handle on any cabinet that opens toward a wall. You may need to place a small buffer between the end of the cabinet and the wall to ensure the door can open completely.

- **Avoid positioning appliances in a way that will limit your workspace.**

- Putting the sink in the corner can prevent you from having enough elbow room and reduces the counter space you can access.
- If your sink will be in front of a window, ensure your tap does not prevent the window from opening.

- **Focus on functionality and convenience.**

- If possible, leave a work area on both sides of the sink and on both sides of the hob (stovetop). This leaves room for a dish rack and pot stand as well as a food preparation area. If you place the hob and the sink on the same counter space, the area between them is an ideal work surface for food preparation. Good measurements are 30" between the sink and the hob and 18" on the other side of the hob where you will place the pot stand.
- Separating the oven from the hob increases efficiency, especially with more than one cook in the kitchen. This also prevents all the heat from being generated in the same space when both the oven and stove are in use.
- Don't block your view of your work area with wall cabinets. Plan their height to be sufficiently above the countertop.
- Put the dishwasher near the sink and dish rack area to speed up loading and unloading and reduce spills. The dishwasher is the best appliance to put in a corner (but only if it won't block anything else from opening).

- **Always keep safety in mind.**

- Avoid putting your oven in a corner, as this will make it harder to safely remove hot food from the oven and will expose your wall to potential staining and too much heat.
- Always mount your extractor hood/fan at the recommended height above the hob.



# Other Planning Tips

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These are more subjective tips that will help you design a kitchen that works best for you.

- Think about what you like about your current kitchen, and what you dislike and want to change.
- Consider your preferences for a kitchen. Do you like using a central island, or do you prefer everything to be along a wall? Do you want to include both?
- Consider the layout of your work area and picture yourself walking through your kitchen as you perform different tasks. This will help you decide on the layout of your appliances, if your plans include moving their locations.
- Think about how many people are going to be using the kitchen at once, and how they'll move through it as they work.
- Note if anyone who is going to be using the kitchen has accessibility requirements that could affect your layout, such as the need for wider spaces to accommodate a wheelchair.

## What You Need

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These are the tools and materials you will need to measure and plan your kitchen.

- This guide
- Pencil with eraser
- Measuring tape (inches)
- Notebook and graph paper (or print out this guide and record your measurements and floor plan in the provided spaces)



# Measuring Your Kitchen

Now that you understand a bit more about how to measure and create a great layout for your kitchen, and you have everything you need to begin, you're ready to take your measurements. After this list, we have included tables you can use to fill out the measurements of the features of your room.

**Draw a rough sketch of your room.** This does not have to be "to scale" as it's only going to be for note-taking purposes. As you measure, you will mark off the completed areas and make notes of each measurement to use later when you draw your floor plan.

**Measure from floor to ceiling.** Note soffit height, if applicable (a soffit is the lower surface of a part of a ceiling that has been built lower, such as to contain an air duct or light fixture. Soffits are more common in older homes).

**Measure every wall using the following procedure:**

- 1) Begin at the left corner to the far-right corner.
- 2) Measure from the left corner to the edge of the opening, window or door etc.
- 3) Now measure across the opening, from trim edge to trim edge.
- 4) Next, measure from trim edge to far wall. Compare this measurement to the total of the previous three. They should be equal.
- 5) Make sure to mark exact locations of sinks, water lines, electrical outlets, and switches on the drawing. Measure to the center of these, not the edge.

6) Now we'll measure all the openings in the room. For the windows, measure from the floor to the windowsill, then measure from the windowsill to the top of the window. Now measure from the top of the window to the ceiling. Compare your floor-to-ceiling measurement to the total of the previous three. They should be equal.

7) To measure door openings, measure the width of the door from trim edge to trim edge. Indicate the position of the door swing on your drawing.

**Now get height, width, and depth measurements for all the appliances in the room,** (stoves, refrigerators, microwaves, dishwashers, etc.), and mark their locations on your drawing. Keep clearance in mind as described previously. Then go back and double check your measurements.

**Using graph paper or the provided grid page,** draw an accurate floor plan of your room utilizing all the measurements you took.



**Wall Measurement Quick Guide:**

When measuring a wall, you must also keep in mind the exact size of any wall space that is lost to features such as windows. To ensure accurate measurements, follow these steps.

- A. Measure the size of the wall.
- B. If there are any windows, measure from the left corner to the window molding.
- C. Measure the window itself.
- D. Measure from the window molding to the right corner.

**NOTE:** Measurements "B" "C" and "D" should equal "A".

| WALLS       |               |                                       |
|-------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
|             | Width of Wall | Height of Wall (Noting Soffit Height) |
| Wall 1      |               |                                       |
| Wall 2      |               |                                       |
| Wall 3      |               |                                       |
| Wall 4      |               |                                       |
| Other Walls |               |                                       |

| DOORS       |               |                |                                |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
|             | Width of Door | Height of Door | Top of Door Molding to Ceiling |
| Door 1      |               |                |                                |
| Door 2      |               |                |                                |
| Door 3      |               |                |                                |
| Door 4      |               |                |                                |
| Other Doors |               |                |                                |

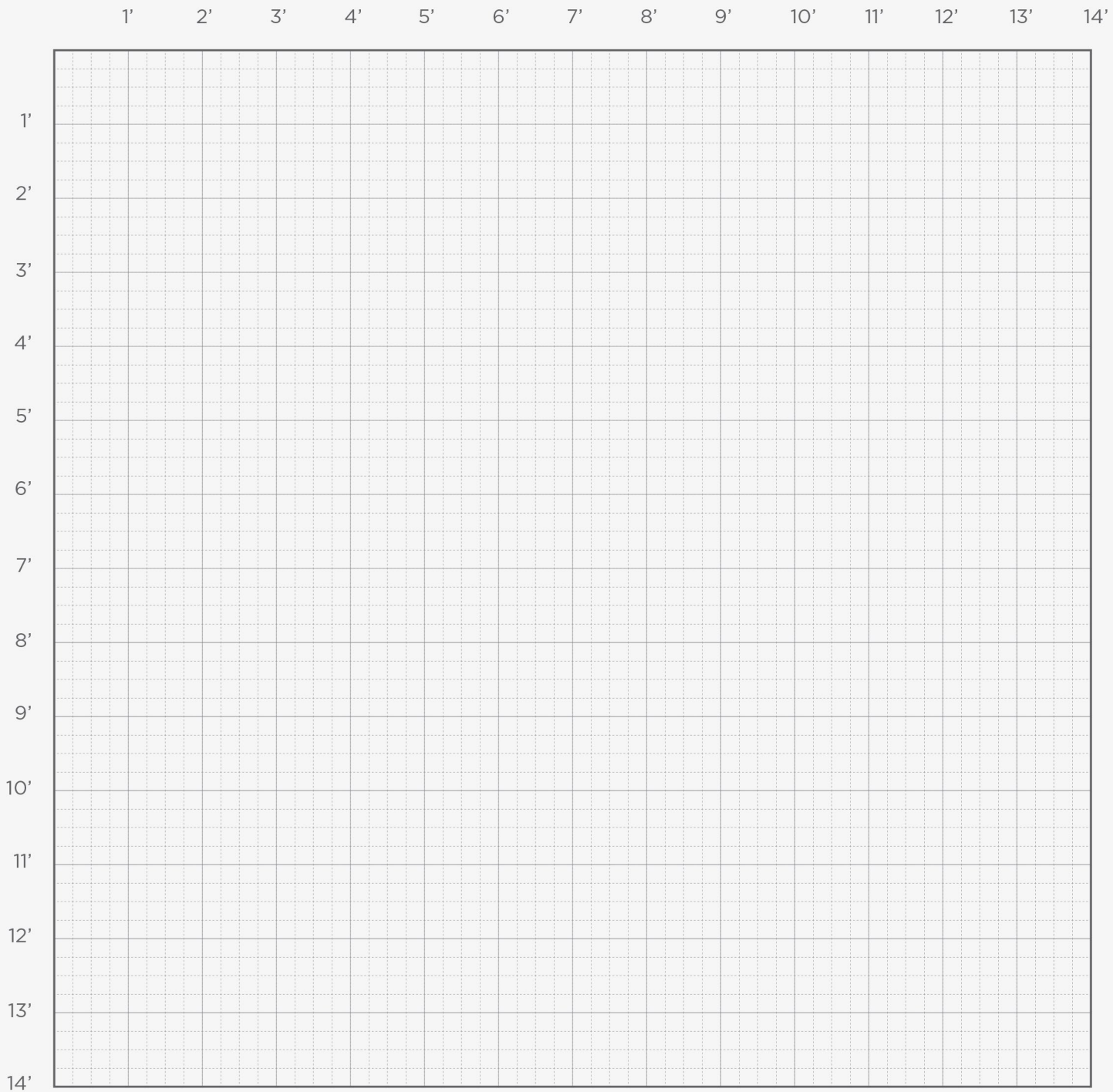
| WINDOWS       |                                         |                                                             |                                                       |                                                     |                                                           |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
|               | Floor to Underside<br>of bottom Molding | Underside of Bottom<br>molding to Topside<br>of top Molding | Right finished wall<br>to outside of right<br>molding | Left finished wall<br>to outside of left<br>molding | Outside of left<br>molding to outside<br>of right molding |
| Window 1      |                                         |                                                             |                                                       |                                                     |                                                           |
| Window 2      |                                         |                                                             |                                                       |                                                     |                                                           |
| Window 3      |                                         |                                                             |                                                       |                                                     |                                                           |
| Window 4      |                                         |                                                             |                                                       |                                                     |                                                           |
| Other Windows |                                         |                                                             |                                                       |                                                     |                                                           |

| APPLIANCES                 |                           |       |       |        |                    |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------|-------|--------|--------------------|
|                            | Brand and Model<br>Number | Width | Depth | Height | Required Clearance |
| Refrigerator               |                           |       |       |        |                    |
| Stove                      |                           |       |       |        |                    |
| Dishwasher                 |                           |       |       |        |                    |
| Wall-Mount<br>Rangehood    |                           |       |       |        |                    |
| Under-Cabinet<br>Rangehood |                           |       |       |        |                    |
| Other                      |                           |       |       |        |                    |



# Floor Plan

You can use this grid to draw a floor plan containing accurate measurements. Each large square is equal to 1' and each small square is equal to 3".



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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.