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How sink choice affects kitchen design

The main kitchen sink and its accompanying fittings and accessories are at the heart of the food prep and clean-up centers of the kitchen. Kitchen professionals offer these planning tips to ensure satisfied clients.

Bowl arrangement

Unless your client is going to wash and rinse dishes in a double sink configuration, demonstrate how a sink with one large compartment and one small compartment functions. This configuration gives you the largest sink for everyday use, and then a smaller — yet usable — compartment for other uses.

Corner sinks

When placing a sink in a corner, do not push it back more than 2 or 3 in. away from the front edge of the countertop. That is the normal installation location and it should be maintained (even in a custom design) so the client has comfortable access to the water source.

Damage

Make sure your client realizes that cast iron, self-rimming sinks are susceptible to damaged edges or to warpage. This is particularly a problem with larger sinks.

Make sure you inspect the sink before it goes to the jobsite. Look for chips along the lead edge. The client must accept the possibility of a wide caulking joint connecting the sink to the countertop for large sink configurations. If this will not be acceptable, specify another type of sink. With these self-rimming sinks, also make sure you specify caulking that will either match the countertop or the sink so the joint compound does not become a focal point in the sink area.

Depth

The deeper the sink, the straighter the sides of the sink. The tighter the angle where the sink side and bottom meet, and the flatter the sink bottom, the bigger the interior space is.

Drain boards

A sink with an attached drain board is an excellent accessory to specify for a client who does a lot of fresh food preparation.

Waste disposer compartment

Some sink configurations are a single size (24 x 21 in.) but have a small, round compartment for the food waste disposer in one back corner. Because the compartment for the food waste



Accessories such as specialized chopping surfaces that completely or partially cover the sink enhance the sink's function, as well as its appearance.

disposer is almost too small to use, this is not the most desirable sink configuration.

Holes

Make sure you know how many holes are on the back ledge of the sink and how many holes you need for the faucet and water attachments. If a hot water dispenser, a faucet, a dishwasher air gap, other dispensers and/or water treatment spouts are planned, you may run out of pre-drilled holes.

Typically, cast iron sinks have four holes. A fifth hole can be drilled, but it is expensive and the sink

may be damaged. Adding extra holes is much easier in a stainless steel sink. In solid surface sinks, the holes are drilled in the countertop deck so the number and placement is flexible.

Overall size

When specifying a solid surface integral sink, verify what the actual overall dimensions of the sink are. The sink literature may list the interior dimension of the sink, not the overall dimension. This overall dimension will determine your spacing in a standard side-by-side double configuration. You may find it necessary to

Photo courtesy of Elkay

increase the cabinet size if you are planning to create a "butterfly" corner arrangement with such sinks.

Recycle center

Some sinks on the market have an opening within the sink that allows access to a chute for a compost container or a waste receptacle below.

Round shapes

If you are going to specify two round sinks as the primary sink arrangement, make sure your client understands the interior space of these sinks is less than a comparable square model. Also, realize these sinks require deck-mounted faucet locations; therefore, you must specify the faucet location on your plan.

Small sinks

Avoid small, 12 x 12-in. sinks. They have a drain that does not accept a food waste disposer, and therefore are so small there will be a water-splash problem when the cook uses the sink for food preparation.

Strainer

If you are not ordering a food waste disposer to be mounted on the sink, make sure you order a good quality strainer.

Under-mounted sinks

If you use separate under-mounted sinks in

Photo courtesy of DuPont Surfaces



A sink with one large compartment and one small compartment gives you the largest sink for everyday use, and then a smaller — yet usable — compartment for other uses.

place of a sink manufactured in a double configuration, warn your client that if water is running and the faucet is swung from one sink to the other, water will splash on the countertop. Consider routing down the countertop section that separates the two sinks, or recessing the entire configuration into the counter surfaces $\frac{1}{4}$ in.

or so in order to eliminate the potential for water to run across the countertop and down to the floor as the spout is moved from sink to sink while water is running.

Accessories

A variety of sink accessories is also available:

- Plastic-covered wire or stainless steel baskets

Photo courtesy of Elkay



Make sure you have enough room behind the sink for some of the oversized "pro." more elaborate faucets.

- are useful for washing and peeling fresh vegetables. They take the place of a colander.
- Plate racks that fit inside the sink.
- Wire racks.
- Specialized chopping surfaces that completely or partially cover the sink.

These accessories may match the sink color, contrast with the sink color, or be a combination of the sink's color and stainless steel. They enhance the sink's function, as well as its appearance. Do not overlook them. ▶

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Kitchen & Bath SPOTLIGHT

Sinks

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design vision

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Following is a sampling of new products in the sink market.

1. The Light Convex surface-mounted wash basin from St. Thomas Creations blends Italian design with European contemporary style. Its geometric form is enhanced with metal, glass and wood.

St. Thomas Creations. Circle 4

2. The Translucence Collection from Decolav showcases glass lavatories in combinations of color, shape and texture. For added strength and safety, the entire collection is tempered glass.

Decolav. Circle 5

3. The Kiwami Collection from Toto, inspired by the Japanese art of origami, features geometric folds and patterns. The lavatories are glazed with SanaGloss for low maintenance.

Toto USA. Circle 6

4. Linkasink adapted the design motif and colors from a Chinese-inspired piece to create its Canton vessel sink. This porcelain sink is hand-thrown and decorated by artisans in China. This sink measures approximately 17 in. by 7 in.

Linkasink. Circle 7

5. Franke Glass Sinks, the newest series, combine tempered glass in tones of sea foam or black with stainless steel. The sinks are available in a variety of placements of smaller and larger sinks with extended drain board, or two larger sinks framed with glass on all four sides.

Franke Consumer Products. Circle 8

6. Stone Forest's small farmhouse sinks are hand-carved from carrera marble, papiro cream or honed basalt. Since each piece is crafted using a hammer and chisel, the individual character of the rock and stonemason's inspiration offer a unique quality.

Stone Forest. Circle 9

7. The UrbanEdge Collection by Julien Home Refinements features handcrafted stainless steel. It includes a 10-in.-deep sink basin, integral drainboard, pullout drawer and interior tile-out drawer.

Julien Inc. Circle 10



8. Duravit launches its Bacino collection, a cylindrical console wash basin which pairs with the company's latest additions to its Fogo bathroom furniture range. It was specifically designed at an 18 1/8-in. height and 14 5/16 in. in diameter to create a deep inner basin without tap area or overflow.

Duravit USA. Circle 11

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9. Villeroy and Boch offers its Amadea Collection featuring a basic oval form and decorative ceramic contouring. It is available in alpine (white) and pergamon (buff), all in the brand's proprietary easy-maintenance ceramic-plus surface finish.

Villeroy & Boch. Circle 13

10. Porcher's new trio of Clarity stone basins is made from a single piece of marble or granite. The hand-finished result may be showcased in an above-counter vessel or drop-in installation or with proper structural support can be wall-mounted for dramatic effect.

Porcher. Circle 14

11. Joining the Mystic family of water-inspired, organically shaped sinks, Elkay Manufacturing introduces four new Mystic Double Wave sinks. The sinks can be integrated into cabinets and countertops or used in an island setting.

Elkay Mfg. Circle 15

12. Kohler Co. introduces 8 Degree, a new family of fabricated stainless steel sinks. This collection is available in three models: a large rectangular single basin; a large/medium double basin; and a square entertainment sink. The design of all three includes a 45-degree beveled edge that accommodates accessories and provides detail.

Kohler. Circle 16

13. Moen expands its Moenstone sink line by including a new double-bowl kitchen sink and matching preparatory and bar sinks. The big/medium double-bowl sink provides additional work space while still being built around standard 33-in. by 22-in. dimensions.

Moen. Circle 17

14. Blanco introduces Blancoperforma in Silgranit, the inspired stone expression of its stainless steel design. This new collection of high-capacity bowl designs introduces four styles, each in five colors, including new cafe brown.

Blanco America. Circle 18



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