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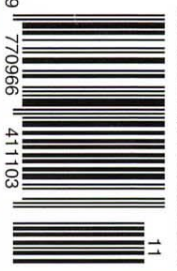
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Kitchen Clever

When it comes to storage, smart and savvy options will make the busiest room in the home work extra hard. We've rounded up the newest ideas for your design

Words: Jill Morgan

We all long for a clutter-free kitchen where we can make short work of daily chores or spend time perfecting our favourite dishes, right? The key to a successful scheme lies in well-planned storage and plenty of it. And with all the latest, super-smart designs there's no danger of running short of ideas. From concealed wall compartments and swivel open shelving to lifting mechanisms for small appliances, there are plenty of ways to make the most of your kitchen, whether you are planning a complete refit or a more modest update.

The best starting point is to empty your cupboards and decide exactly what you do and don't need – and be honest with yourself. It's amazing how much we end up hoarding, all taking up precious inches and adding to the general clutter. Make a list of key gadgets and small appliances and take a long hard look at the room's layout. Are there any areas of dead space that could be refitted or dated units that could be swapped for more space-efficient drawers? Could your kitchen walls work harder? Also think about how you cook and what you use. Do you need easy access to a mixer, blender, or multiple chopping boards? Realising how you use and move around your kitchen is crucial to deciding on a workable layout with the right storage.

Researching online is a great place to begin – retailers' websites will showcase the latest ideas on offer, or arrange a visit to discuss options. Taking time to visit a local showroom or have an online call with a kitchen designer is also invaluable. Armed with inspirational images and a well-measured floorplan, chances are you'll discover the perfect storage ideas for your needs.

POP-UP WINE STORAGE

Why we love it

Introduced by Minotti Cucine, this innovative feature proves that you can have a minimal, slick kitchen that's still packed with all manner of concealed appliances. Just large enough to house a small wine storage unit, microwave or combi oven, the neat pop-up mechanism sits within the base unit with a section of carefully matched work surface firmly mounted on top. Once closed it's hard to see that it's there at all, but it can be electronically raised when you need it.

How it works

This ingenious system uses a small motorised mechanism to raise and lower an appliance, so it sits flush with the worktop when in use and neatly tucks away to leave a seamless surface when no longer needed. This system can be controlled remotely via a smartphone or tablet, adding to its futuristic feel, and is compatible with most types of worktop, including weighty granite and marble.

What does it cost?

Available as part of a Minotti Cucine London kitchen, which start from £60,000.

