

Dream, Design, Peace Of Mind

Designing The Perfect Pantry

Here Are A Few Pantry Design Considerations

Do you have a pantry in your current home? According to recent surveys, pantry space is very important to homeowners. Many kitchens do not have enough cabinet space to store significant quantities of food. With smaller households becoming more common, pantry space has become a premium. This article covers the design specifics that you will want to keep in mind when thinking about adding a pantry or redesigning your kitchen to accommodate a pantry.

Three Styles of Pantries



A reach-in is usually the most common and convenient as they are integrated in with the rest of the kitchen cabinetry. The ideal depth of a reach-in pantry would be 14" to 16". Any depth greater than 16" makes it difficult to see what is in the back of the cabinet. For deeper reach-ins, a roll-out tray or lazy susan can be added to increase the accessibility. Where more space is available, a bat-wing style reach-in can be built. This style has shelves on the back of the doors to accommodate even more storage space.

A pull-out style pantry is a reach-in pantry turned on its end and inserted into the cabinet. In this case, the entire multi-shelf unit pulls out of the cabinet. In small kitchens where cabinet space is a premium, a pull-out may be the only option.



The third style of pantry is the walk-in. The walk-in might be a walk-through pantry when installed in a hallway. The walk-in is a small room or closet that has been specifically designed for storing food. It is normally located within a few short steps of the kitchen. If it is any further away than that, the walk-in would be inconvenient for food that used on a day-to-day basis. Walk-in pantries are great for storing larger quantities of food stuffs and bulk packaging as well as small appliances. The walk-through pantry is often found in older homes as a combination mud room and pantry.

Key Design Considerations

Here are several key design considerations for your next pantry:

Location

Ideally, every pantry should be placed within a few steps of the food preparation

area. A good rule of thumb is not more than 48" away. The goal is keep the cook happy with convenience and efficiency. The closer the pantry is to a countertop-height landing zone, the better. Try to keep the pantry close to the refrigerator.

Shelving

Deep shelves should be avoided. Stay within the 14" to 16" range or less. Shelves above eye level should be kept to a shorter 10" to 12" range. Solid shelves reduce visibility and light while wire shelving allows the light to pass through. Solid shelves are good for small items while wire shelves may be better for higher shelves where you can see through the wire. Wire shelving requires less cleaning.



Walk Through Pantry Aisles

The minimum aisle for a walk-in or walk-through pantry is 36". However, in a two-cook kitchen, 42" to 48" works better. This gives people room to pass by one another. Items placed on shelves should not protrude into the walkway and items should not be placed on the floor in the walkway space. A walkway of 60" wide is needed in pantries where wheelchair access is needed.

Pantry Lighting

Lighting may enhance the functionality and accessibility of the pantry. LED light strips are a great solution for small walk-ins. The strips can be placed on the back side of the entry in the corners of the pantry. This will provide illumination into the rear areas of each shelf space. This type of lighting is especially useful for the lower shelves where the ceiling light cannot reach.



Want Some Advice?

Designing and integrating an efficient pantry can be a challenge when you consider all the variables involved. If you need help figuring out how to maximize your kitchen space and increase your food storage area, we are here for you. Mike and Chris at Custom Built Design & Remodeling have designed and integrated pantries that work for others just like you. We are experienced, easy to work with and guarantee what we do. Give us a call at (517) 881-9871 or send an email to info@callcustombuilt.com to set up a consultation.

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