

Why galley kitchens are both stylish and space-saving

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The very definition of practical and pretty – this tried-and-tested kitchen format can be the perfect fit for any compact home.

Simple but very effective in the right space, the galley kitchen is known for being a smart, easy-to-clean solution for smaller homes. But without careful thought and clever storage, these streamlined kitchens can start to feel cramped and cluttered due to the limited surface space. *KBB* journo Rosie Smith spoke to kitchen pros to find out how they make the most of the galley design...

What is a galley kitchen?

Designed based on — and named after — kitchens found in a ship's galley, these layouts feature either one long set of cabinets with a countertop (a 'single galley'), or two facing each other with a corridor in between. Some single galleys are teamed with an island with bar stools to add extra counter space, as well as a cosy area for dining and socialising. Due to the lack of storage solutions, make sure that this extra space doesn't end up covered in clutter.



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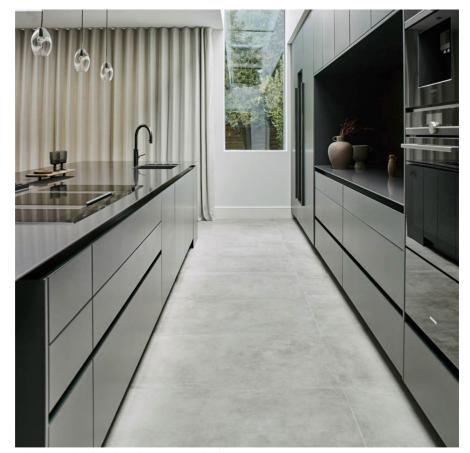




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Urbo and Metro bespoke kitchen with antique brass and dark bronze from **Roundhouse**. Kitchens start at £35,000.

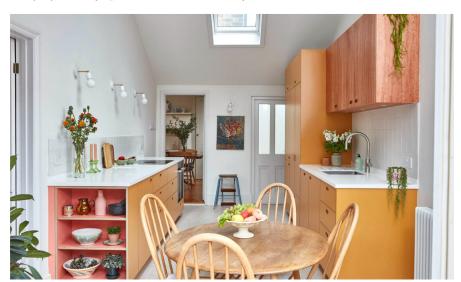
Debra Hutt of **Wren Kitchens** shares her best tips: "Utilise wall space with overhead cabinets and shelving, allowing you to conceal any crockery, pots and pans, and appliances that are only used from time to time, keeping surfaces clear."

"Consider kitchen innovations such as clever corner units that feature pull-out spice racks, wine coolers and other storage options to make use of every inch of cupboard space, even the very back where you can't normally reach. Or for a rustic look, why not install an overhead or wall-fixture pot rack to keep pots and pans on display, freeing up cupboard space?"

Other ideas include replacing the kettle with a boiling-water tap or utilising open shelving to store your favourite crockery.

Key considerations

With this type of layout, you must consider where everything goes – perhaps one section is the wet zone, including your sink and dishwasher, while opposite is the cook zone, with your fridge, hob and oven all in easy reach. Be sure to talk to your kitchen designer about all the practicalities of where everything, from your cutlery to your tea cups, goes to make the best use of the space.





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The Stradella Road kitchen by **Pluck**, featuring Market Mustard, London Plane and Ritzy cabinetry. Photography: Malcolm Menzies

You've got the layout sorted, time to think about colours. "I would advise a light kitchen like off-white or light grey with light worktops," says Vicky Bratt, showroom manager at **Nolte Kitchens** in Milton Keynes. "This is the most popular choice with smaller kitchens to keep the space looking bright and airy. Mirror splashbacks are also helpful to create the illusion of more space."

In galley kitchens with lots of natural light, bright colours can offer a quirky, cheerful option too. Even dark colours can work well, when used with intention. Once you've brought in plenty of practical ways to maximise the space, it's all about tailoring it to suit your style.

Here, we've collated a collection of galley kitchens to show you just what's possible...

Inspiration gallery



The Copenhagen range in white with Fjellen units in white oiled oak, with solid oak and sanded stainless steel worktops. Designs by \mathbf{Sola} Kitchens start from £54,000.



 $Kensington~Rose~No.~22, \pounds 64.50~for~2.5~litres, and~Holland~Park~No.5, \pounds 89~for~2.5~litres, both~\textbf{Mylands}.$



 $4011\ Cloudburst\ Concrete\ mineral\ worktop\ from\ \textbf{Caesarstone}, shown\ in\ Studio\ Merlin's\ Maison\ Pour\ Dodo\ project.$



Bespoke kitchen by **PAD** using their 'Wimbledon' cabinetry collection which features integrated handle profiles. Available in matt or gloss finishes and bespoke colours to seamlessly flow in any space. Bespoke kitchens from PAD start from £20,000. Photography: Chris Snook.



Marlborough Terracotta parquet tiles, from £78 per sq m, Ca' Pietra.





New Deco collection cabinetry, hand-painted in **Martin Moore** Lime White, with New Deco handles in Polished Nickel. Kitchens start from £55,000.





Galley layout with Shaker kitchen cabinetry, from £35,000, **John Lewis of Hungerford**.



The Hartford collection in Thistle and Dewberry, from £25,000, **Tom Howley**.



 $Galley\ kitchen\ featuring\ the\ Profile\ collection\ in\ Matt\ Meadow\ and\ Pale\ Teal,\ price\ on\ application,\ \textbf{Loch}\ Anna\ Kitchens.$





 $\label{thm:continuous} \textbf{Kitchens. Photography: Chris Snook.}$



The Manhattan range in Oak Nero finish, from £30,000, Nolte Kitchens.



New Timber Black and Tundra by ${\bf Rotpunkt},$ shown on its Zerox kitchen furniture.





Be spoke laminate and plywood kitchen, price on application, The Life of Ply.



Kitchen design from the Natura Dawn range, Wickes.

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