

WORKSHEET 5—MEASURE MY COUNTERSPACE

Check the ideal allowances for counter space in the chart that follows and measure your own kitchen counters for comparison. Write the dimensions on your kitchen layout as a matter of record. (See your Step 2 Worksheet)

COMPARISON OF IDEAL-MINIMUM-KITCHEN COUNTERSPACE TO MY OWN

<u>Location of Counter</u>	<u>Ideal Minimum Needed</u>	<u>My Counter Measurements</u>
Next to Range Top: Left side	15" with heat-proof surface	_____
" Right side	"	_____
Next to Sink: Right side	30" (Right handed person)	_____
Left side	24" "	_____
Next to Refrigerator	15" on opening side	_____
Next to Built-in Oven	15" on working side (with heat-proof surface)	_____
Next to Microwave Oven	15" on working side (with heat-proof surface)	_____
For Mixing/Food preparation	36" wide, 30" deep	_____
For Eating	21" per person	_____
For Planning	28"	_____
With a computer	36"	_____
For Wet Bar	24" + Sink	_____

Do not feel badly if your kitchen does not meet the standards. Very few kitchens are ideally designed. So unless you are building a new home or remodeling an old one, you are basically stuck with what you have, but you CAN make some important adjustments to bring about maximum efficiency. Consider the suggestions which follow:

HOW TO INCREASE COUNTERSPACE IN YOUR KITCHEN

1. DO NOT place items on top of your counters unless the items are USED EVERY DAY, or at least 4 times a week.
2. Install a removeable board over one-half of your divided sink.
3. Purchase or build a chopping-block island or cart on wheels.
4. Build a drop-leaf counter at the end of a cabinet.
5. Install a pull-out board just below the countertop in a base cabinet.
6. Install a pull-out table (commercially made) in place of an existing drawer.
7. Cover the electric (not gas) range surface when not needed. (Be sure the burners are off and cannot be accidentally turned on).

Which ideas will work for you? Check the ones you want to pursue. For more ideas of what you can do to gain efficiency in your kitchen, continue on to Step 6.