

# BIG ideas for small kitchens

adding function, storage, and beauty to a tiny kitchen



by **Nicole R. Martin, AKBD, CAPS**  
Designer | Project Manager  
Brubaker Inc.



Since 1945, what we have learned and perfected as a premier appliance store and HVAC, electrical, and plumbing contractor, we have incorporated into the remodeling extension of our company. Brubaker Inc. is proud to offer single-source responsibility for each kitchen, bathroom or laundry remodeling project that we undertake. That means everything you need for your home remodel project is under one roof: from personalized design, to supplying name-brand materials and appliances, to installation by qualified, licensed in-house professionals. There is full accountability and assured quality control. A customer ranking of 97% "Total Satisfaction" and client testimonials bear witness to our tradition of excellence...74 years and counting!

1284 Rohrerstown Road, Lancaster  
**717.299.5641**  
BrubakerInc.com/remodeling



**W**e all dream of a large, luxurious kitchen with endless storage, two islands, and industrial appliances; in reality many of us have small, inefficient kitchens. Instead of viewing your tiny space as a hindrance let's look for all of the possibilities to add function, storage, and beauty to your tiny kitchen.

Looking at the photos on this page spread, a very small kitchen in an older home was totally transformed by replacing dark cabinets and a soffit with white painted cabinets that extend to the ceiling. This not only brought the room

up to date but substantially increased the storage space. Moving the microwave from the counter to a cabinet added about 21" of additional counter space, almost 25% more than they had before!

Seemingly small changes have much larger effects in small rooms. Installing a cabinet with glass doors to show off a collection takes up no extra room and is a practically dust-free solution to a cabinet without doors.

Taking advantage of every possible storage space is essen-

tial in a small kitchen. The backsplash area offers abundant opportunities to add storage. A shelf can be added along the length of your backsplash or an inset cubby can be installed above your range to hold oils and spices. Rails can be added to hold cooking utensils on hooks or magnet strips can be installed to hold knives. Cabinet sides are also a great place to eke out a little more storage. They are excellent locations for message centers and charging stations.

You may not have room for an island, but how about a





**Never let your small kitchen inhibit the creativity and joy you have in your home.**



peninsula? These configurations eliminate some of the necessary clearance space allowing them to fit in a smaller footprint. You can even add small drawers into the toe-kicks of your cabinets!

If you can't make the room larger, you can make it appear larger. Open shelves or cabinets with glass doors—in place of wall cabinets—stop the visual blocks that close in the room. Using darker finishes on the base cabinets and lighter finishes on the upper cabinets (as seen in the photo to the right), will ground the room, adding visual height. Selecting different tints and shades of the same color for fixtures will make the room appear larger by creating a continuous, monochromatic color scheme.



*In the above kitchen, a pass-through (immediately above) was cut in the wall between the kitchen and dining room not only for convenience between the prep and dining areas but to eliminate the closed-in feel of the very narrow kitchen. Shallow cabinets along the walls by the entrances to the family room*



*and basement steps add much needed built-in storage and counter space while not impeding the flow of traffic. Shifting the range down slightly to eliminate the cramped feeling of cooking right beside the wall while adding convenient resting spots for cookware on each side of the range.*

Magazines, TV shows, and the internet can often make us feel like happy people have large kitchens. Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom once said, "Things taste better in small houses." How much truer that must be of small kitchens! Never let your small kitchen inhibit the creativity and joy you have in your home. Brubaker Inc. is pleased to help you create a kitchen to suit your needs. One of our professional designers can guide you through the remodeling process, showing you ways to think "outside of the box" and make even a tiny kitchen into one of your dreams. Brubaker Inc.'s own in-house installers will then transform your plans into reality. Contact us today at 717.299.5641 or remodeling@brubakerinc.com to get started on your project!

R&A

**SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE**  
visit showroom for details

*Visit* our *new* showroom!

Brubaker Inc. is proud to offer single-source responsibility for each kitchen or bathroom remodeling project we undertake. That means everything you need for your home remodel is available under one roof: from personalized design, to supplying the name-brand materials and appliances, to installation by qualified, licensed in-house professionals. There is full accountability and assured quality control.



*Pictured below, this early 20th century kitchen was very limited in usability without some changes. Shallow-depth cabinets were added to the left wall,*



*adding both storage and counter space. A large pantry was installed beside the refrigerator to give maximum storage space and a work space was*



*added to an empty wall opposite the range by removing an existing radiator.*

1284 Rohrerstown Road  
Lancaster, PA 17601 | 717.299.5641  
[www.brubakerinc.com/remodeling/](http://www.brubakerinc.com/remodeling/)  
PA Contractors License #4191

**Questions about remodeling?  
Give us a call today!**

**Brubaker**  
INC.  
Since 1945  
Home Services • Appliances • Remodeling