

# How to Measure Your Kitchen

If you simply want to replace the kitchen cabinets you have with cabinets in the same size and over the same footprint you have, you can just measure the height and width of each of your cabinets. If you are considering redesigning your kitchen, you will need to record accurate measurements of each wall, the ceiling, and doorways, windows, the sink, appliances, and other features of your kitchen.

We have attached 2 grid forms to help you record the measurements of your kitchen. One is a SAMPLE Grid Form, so you can get an idea of how you may want to record information; the second one is a BLANK Grid Form, so you can transfer your measurements to it.

1. You may find it helpful to print out copies of both our SAMPLE and our BLANK Kitchen Grid Forms and have at least a couple blank sheets of paper available so you can record measurements and sketch rough drawings on them.
2. Measure your kitchen one wall at a time in INCHES, not feet, and record the numbers on a separate sheet of paper. (Example: Wall 1 is 133 inches; Wall 2 is 108 inches).
3. Make a rough drawing of the shape of your kitchen on another sheet of paper that includes each wall, door, doorway, window, and protruding or recessed areas. At the top of each side of your paper, record the dimensions of that wall from one end to the other.
4. Measure each section of each wall and record those numbers on your drawing. (Example: Wall 1: 54" from right corner to outside edge of window casing; window is 37" wide; from window to end of wall is 39"). Record those numbers on your drawing underneath your first measurement that listed the full length of that wall.
5. Check the accuracy of your measurements by adding up all of the dimensions of each wall and comparing them to the total wall dimension that you recorded before. (Example:  $54'' + 37'' + 42'' = 133$ ). This is an essential step. If the numbers do not add up, measure again!
6. Determine the center of your sink by measuring it to the corner of the wall in one direction, then measure from the center of the sink to the other end of the wall. Record those numbers on your drawing.
7. Measure the height from the floor to the ceiling in your kitchen in at least 4 locations. Record all of the measurements and where they were taken. Be sure to mark the SHORTEST dimension. (Example: 95" near sink; 94.5 near door; 95.2 by light switch; 94.8 center of floor: Shortest dimension is 94.5). This measurement will help you determine what height cabinets and crown molding you can use.

8. If your kitchen has bulkheads (wallboard framed out from the ceiling to the top of your cabinets), measure their height and depth and mark them in another colored pencil or pencil on your sketch sheet. (If you intend to remove the bulkheads, skip this step).
9. Note the location of each electrical outlet, switch, or light fixture with a symbol on your rough sketch, and be sure to record the height from the floor and distance to the nearest corner.
10. If you will be keeping your appliances, measure and record their dimensions (Example: dishwasher 24" wide by 34" high; refrigerator 33" wide by 82" high, etc.)
11. Study the SAMPLE grid, then transfer your drawing and your kitchen measurements to your blank grid.