Improving Your Kitchen’s Functionality

Steps to Making Your Old Kitchen Young Again
Is your kitchen experiencing the pains of old age?

Maybe it’s cramped and dingy. Maybe it still has that outdated 1980’s style it had when you moved in all those years ago. Maybe the appliances are old and underwhelming.

Instead of enjoying cooking and mealtime, you dread it. Instead of entertaining the way you’ve always dreamed, you try to keep people away.

It’s never too late to discover how to make your old kitchen young again. You can add a modern touch with beautiful aesthetics, open spaces, and exciting, innovative strategies to make more out of the space you have.

A new and improved kitchen does more than improve how that area of your home looks! It offers a wonderful range of benefits:

- Provides fantastic new entertaining and gathering space to welcome friends and family.
- Improves functionality and flow to make life easier- reducing stress while allowing you to accomplish more.
- Increases home resale value for immediate and long-term dividends.

With this guide, your eyes will be opened to a world of possibilities. No kitchen is too old, cramped or outdated to be saved.

*Let’s show you how to get started.*
The Pains of Old Age - Kitchens get them, too!

Age and time conquer all. That’s why you hit the treadmill, pay attention to what you eat and go to the doctor for that annual checkup. Right? At least you try to do your best.

Well, kitchens experience the pains of old age, too! Here are some of the symptoms:

**Poor Functionality**
Considering how much we use our kitchens every day, it’s startling how many of them are designed so poorly. The wrong layout can make maneuvering impossible; restricting what you can do and how many people can be in the kitchen at once.

Instead of an intuitive, streamlined design that helps you easily accomplish whatever you’re setting out to do, you’re hindered.

Then, there’s just never enough storage, is there? Sure, maybe you have everything you need in your kitchen. Somewhere. The problem is it’s stowed away and out of reach, impossible to actually access and use.

Aren’t you tired of tripping over yourself and wading through piles of unorganized who-knows-what before you can actually cook something?

**Aesthetic Issues**
Your kitchen must have been a looker at one point. But those days are long gone, aren’t they?

Old kitchens can quickly become outdated from top to bottom. It starts with lighting, or a lack thereof. There is nothing worse than a dark and dreary kitchen.

Then you have cabinets that are faded from the decades. Countertops are stained, scratched, chipped and dull. Floors may be dingy and damaged from years of neglect.

From floor to ceiling, modernization and style are in order.

**Outdated Appliances**
Your kitchen appliances get the job done. Usually. But amazing advancements have been made in the size and efficiency of appliances.

What if your appliances did more, offering a modern look while making your life easier? What if they were actually a cohesive element of your kitchen’s design?

It’s time to put some cutting-edge technology to good use.
Lack of Entertaining Space

Oh, the parties you would throw if you only had the right space! You know friends would gather and relish your hospitality and cooking, but there’s just no place to do it. Your kitchen is unwelcoming and utilitarian at best.

You have the recipes and ideas! Now, all you need is the space to actually enjoy yourself and the company of others.

Whether your kitchen is suffering from one or all of these pains of old age, it can be cured -- not good as new, but better than ever.

There’s no area of the home that has as much wasted space as the kitchen. The upside is that there are simple ways to make major improvements.

**Bulkheads, Soffits & Cabinets, Oh My!**
Your kitchen bulkheads and soffits are used to conceal the nitty-gritty wiring, ventilation or plumbing of your home. However, they push cabinets down, which eliminates the use of valuable available space.

Today, cabinets can be designed to span all the way to the ceiling, masking and working around the bulkheads and soffits instead of being dominated by them.

This will make your kitchen feel more open, while capitalizing on additional storage opportunities.

**Kitchen Islands**
When designed properly, your kitchen island will be your primary work and service space. There is a huge, typically underutilized, opportunity for invaluable storage and countertop room with a kitchen island. Don’t let it go to waste.

**Storage Revamps**
Simple ideas can go a long way for storage. Instead of the typical Lazy Susan, for instance, a corner drawer stack will help you maximize that space.

A walk-in pantry can be custom-designed allowing easy, all-in-one organization. Everything will be within view and easy to reach.

**Creating a Flow**
Your kitchen should help you maximize your time. If it’s designed in the right way, you’ll be able to reduce time spent with meal preparation.

The goal is to create a seamless flow with ease of access to ingredients, utensils and appliances. With no more stress, frustration and clutter, you will be amazed at what you can accomplish in the kitchen.
Opening Your World

Kitchens are often closed to the world. Mom goes in there, and who knows what happens? There’s a lot of clanging and banging and eventually she comes out, a bit more frazzled than you had last seen her, with a meal for everyone to enjoy.

But, kitchens don’t have to be a restricted access zone. In fact, kitchens are the perfect gathering and entertaining space.

Why do you think people always end up congregating near the kitchen at parties and family gatherings? You’re near the action, the food, and the drink! In a well-designed kitchen, you’ll have opportunities to stand or sit, come or go!

By knocking down unnecessary walls or opening them up, you instantly create a larger and more welcoming environment.

Now, you’ll be able to interact with your family and guests, and they’ll be able to come lend a hand if they’re inclined. Dad will even have a line of sight to the TV and the big game so he doesn’t have any more excuses to skip out on dishwashing duty.

You’re no longer tucked away into your kitchen alone, working in cramped quarters.

Your kitchen is an integral part of your home, and should be designed in a centralized, open way that allows for this.

Entertain, enjoy and welcome everyone in; that’s what a kitchen is really all about.
Improving Your Kitchen’s Functionality

There was a time when the microwave was the coolest, newest appliance on the block. But if that’s still the best your kitchen has to offer in terms of technology, then you’re missing out. There have been fantastic advancements in the size, efficiency and overall tech capabilities of home kitchen appliances.

A new fridge won’t just look great; it can actually be easily incorporated into the design and flow of your kitchen. If you’re on the ambitious side of home cooking, you can even find commercial-grade refrigerators and stoves that do more than simply help you look the part.

New dishwashers are powerful and feature-rich, and can be unobtrusively included in stylish cabinet spaces.

That old microwave can certainly be upgraded too, and conveniently stowed away while you’re at it.

From there, you can get as creative as you want. Your kitchen should truly reflect your passions.

New Technology You Should Try:
• Smart fridges - These refrigerators know more about what you eat & what you need to stock up on than you do!

• New stovetops - Induction stovetops are efficient, responsive and versatile.

• Automate your cooking - Ovens with Wi-Fi, apps & tablet interfaces let you look up recipes, control your stove remotely and even automate aspects of your cooking.

That means you can opt for an under-the-counter wine cooler for convenient access to your favorite vintages, a pullout fridge for the best in game-day entertaining, or simply match your home’s overall interior with unique appliance designs or colors.
Resale Value and How Your Kitchen Affects It

Do home improvement projects actually improve your home’s resale value? Absolutely. Well-planned kitchen remodeling projects are proven to be cost-effective choices that produce return on investment.

Beyond price, a modern, upgraded kitchen also adds major buyer interest in your home to begin with. It’s one of the most highly sought after home upgrades and will be a bonus for you in the marketplace.

The top aspects of your kitchen that will directly affect your home’s resale value include:

- **Function & flow:** Is your kitchen easily accessible and navigational with maximum utilized space?
- **Openness to the rest of the home:** Is your kitchen a welcoming open area that is ideal for entertaining?
- **New cabinets:** Cabinets are the first place a potential buyer looks. Do your cabinets include soft-close doors and drawers? Do they extend to the ceiling and offer additional storage space? Have they been replaced? If not, have they at least been refinished with lightly painted or light wood fronts? Has new hardware been added?
- **New counter:** Countertops are the second place a potential buyer looks. Are your countertops a solid surface, like natural stone, granite, quartz, or glass?
- **Overall aesthetics:** New cabinets and counters, flooring, lighting and appliances all work together to produce a beautiful, modern and eye-catching appearance. Combine these aspects with flowing and open space and your kitchen will offer serious curb appeal!
What to Do Next

You’ve seen it all at this point; the good, the bad, the ugly, and the old or outdated. It’s time to make a change. The kitchen you’ve always dreamed about is waiting for you.

At Mullet Cabinet, we have 40 years of experience producing beautiful custom cabinetry. We are a family-run business located in the heart of Amish Furniture Country, and we pride ourselves on our tradition, our customer service, and our commitment to excellence.

We provide designs that showcase the latest in style to suit your taste, from vibrant colors to subtle hues. Our custom designs are both fabulous and functional, with distinctive or understated details, and storage that is simple and ingenious.

You want stunning and comfortable... Convenient and welcoming... Accessible and inviting... Modern and feature-rich... And you want it all to be beautiful.

Your kitchen should be a space to pursue your passions, to enjoy family time, and to entertain. When we blend your individuality with our creativity, the result is a perfect space to celebrate everything special with those who are special to you!

That’s what custom cabinet design is about. When you are ready, let us help make your old kitchen young again.

All of our customers receive the Mullet Family Promise Guarantee - a promise to provide you with top quality custom cabinets, countertops, design, and overall customer satisfaction.

When you’re ready to take the next step, call us at 888-333-3594 to schedule your appointment to visit our Design Center.

You can also visit MulletCabinet.com and view our gallery to see a huge collection of our work and the limitless possibilities for your beautiful, inviting and modern new kitchen.