

DECOR**Kitchen cabinets**

Those who live and breathe cooking shows and competitions by now have hit the harsh reality — the TV kitchens are leagues apart from the cooking spaces we have at home.

Reaching for one ingredient ends up burning the one in the pan to resemble a blackened piece of coal. Even the dining table ends up becoming part of the kitchen to hold your pre-cut ingredients.

Paints a familiar picture of every household, doesn't it?

GETTING THE RIGHT CABINET

If you do not have any cabinets or other such storing options, think along the lines of buying a portable one. While there are options to buy ready-to-be-installed kitchen cabinet sets with cooking hoods, that's not the main focus here. Think in terms of size, the contents you will put in there and most importantly — if it will fit through the kitchen door.

**WATCH WHAT YOU PUT IN THERE**

That stack of old plastic ice cream boxes or earthenware bowls — ask yourself, how long are those sitting in the kitchen? Do not just stuff them in your cabinet to hide them from plain sight. Put heavy weight items, large cooking pots and occasionally used items in the lower shelves. Place your everyday tableware on top for easy reaching. Make it a habit to store the cooking ware instead of having them lying around on the floor.

A PLACE FOR YOUR SPICES

You do not need a wall length spice shelf to keep your spices. Even the simple spice holders and racks will do. The best thing with rotating spice jars or spice organisers, you can tuck the essentials into a corner or house them on top of the cabinet. Just do not forget to label your jars.

While there is not much to do in the rented homes and apartments, you can still make the best use of your resources. Kitchen cabinets are already part of most modern kitchens in one way or another, and the trick lies in adapting to the ones you have for maximum utility. Try to balance your cooking comfort with a bit of organising prowess and half of your cooking pains will be eased.

By Iris Farina

Photo: Collected

**DECOR****A Zen retreat**

When it comes to décor and home renovations projects, we often overlook this highly pivotal area of personal space. The bathroom is definitely a place to relax and rejuvenate. This is a room that is receiving much importance and square feet coverage from architects and interior decorators alike. People look forward to a spa-like experience, right in the comfort of their own homes.

HARDWARE GALORE

The first and foremost thing in importance is choosing the right hardware. There are many options available for you to pick the right basin, vanity corners and toilets for your bathroom. However, don't make the toilet the first thing you see when open the door.

The logic is simple. Oftentimes, bathroom doors get left open, meaning that you or any guest in your home walking by will see the toilet — which, come on, is not the most aesthetically pleasing thing to look at.

If you are hoping for a spa-like vibe, putting the john front and centre in the design can sort of kill the mood as you're transitioning into the room.

TILES

With the myriad of decisions facing you when you decide to remodel or create a bathroom in your home, the one you expect to be most enjoyable is choosing the tiles. Should you go light or dark? Big or small? Shiny or matt? Sleek and contemporary or textured and natural?

They set the tone for the entire look and feel of the finished space and will likely be the first thing you notice.

One easy way to begin choosing your bathroom tiles is to find one design that you really love. Perhaps you have fallen in love with a pattern, bold colour, or an interesting



shape. This will become your feature tile in the room which can be used either as an accent on the walls or perhaps to add some drama to your floors or shower enclosure.

Generally speaking, if your room size is small, you may wish to hold off on using any large format tiles in the space. Choose tiles that will complement the size of your room, so medium sized tiles for a mid-size bathroom or mosaic tiles for a very small bathroom.

SHOWERS OR BATHTUBS

I say both. Let's be practical. It would not

be feasible to have both a stand-up shower point and soak tub in your toilet. Choose one according to your space and desire. If you are a more functional person who spends no more than five minutes in the shower before rushing to work every morning, it's best to buy a sleek, shower enclosure with glass doors.

But if you are one to enjoy your bath bombs, scented candles and rose petals floating in warm, steamy waters, invest in a statement tub by all means and make it a focal point in the décor.