

Measuring Your Space

Proper and accurate measuring is a must before planning which cabinets and accessories will be needed and placement of exact appliance locations. Kitchen designers will use 1/2" scale which means 1/2" on your ruler represents 12 inches or 1 foot of actual floor space.

Use grid paper and make each grid square equal to 3 inches of your actual floor space. Besides the grid paper, you will need a tape measure, a one foot ruler and a pencil to begin your rough draft.

Follow the steps below to accurately measure your space. Transfer each measurement to the grid paper.

- **Step 1:** Begin at the left of any corner in the room and measure to the right corner. **(Notate the total measurement in inches)**
- **Step 2:** Return to the left corner and measure to the outer edge of molding of a door/window opening.
- **Step 3:** Measure the doors and windows from the outer edge of molding to outer edge of molding. **(Notate which way doors swing open)**
- **Step 4:** Continue measuring all doors and windows this same way along the wall to the right corner.
- **Step 5: Double-check your measurements** by adding up all the measurements from Step 2 to Step 4. These should total the overall wall measurement for Step 1. If they do not equal, you must re-measure before proceeding.
- **Step 6:** Return to the left corner and **measure to the center** of any water lines, water drains, gas lines, electrical outlets or electrical switches. You will need to pull appliances away from the wall if in the way.
- **Step 7:** Note the measurements from the center of each outlet/switch to the floor. **(Measure all of the items listed on Step 6 until you reach the right corner)**
- **Step 8:** Double check these measurements. They must total the overall measurement in Step 1. **Again, if they do not equal, you must re-measure before proceeding.**
- **Step 9:** Note the overall height of each door, including molding.
- **Step 10:** Note the measurement from the bottom of the windowsill to the floor below each window.
- **Step 11:** Note the measurement from the bottom of the windowsill to the top of the molding of each window.
- **Step 12:** Note the measurement from the top of each window to the ceiling.
- **Step 13:** Measure the overall floor to ceiling height, accounting for soffits and beams.

- **Step 14:** Double check that the measurements in Steps 10 through 12 equal Step 13. If they do not, re-measure.
- **Step 15:** Repeat Steps 1 through 14 for each wall of the room.
- **Step 16:** Measure all existing appliances that will be reused in your new kitchen. If new appliances will be used, it is best to get the manufacturer's specifications prior to designing your new kitchen.
- **Step 17:** As an added measure of caution, it is recommended that you measure the inside width of all entry doors and doorways to check that existing cabinets and appliances can be removed, but especially that all new cabinets, appliances and counter tops can be brought in without onsite modifications.

Drawing Your Floor Plan

You are now ready to draw your floor plan on the grid paper. (A scale ruler is helpful.) Before you begin, **remember you are converting your measurements in inches down to a scale of 1/2"**. In other words, each 12" (or 1 foot) section of your actual measurements will equal 1/2" on your ruler. Furthermore, **each small square on your grid paper equals 3"** of your actual measurements. To transfer the measurements that you have obtained from each wall, use a pencil and follow the steps below.

- **Step 1:** Draw a line equal to the total measurement of each wall that was measured in 1/2" scale.
- **Step 2:** Notate the total measurement in "dimension lines" on the outside of the lines drawn in Step 1.
- **Step 3:** Draw where the doors and windows are located on each wall using these symbols:



- **Step 4:** Notate the measurements of each window and door in "dimension lines" between the wall lines and the dimension lines for the total measurement.
- **Step 5:** Locate and draw the gas lines, water lines, electrical outlets and switches located on each wall using these symbols.

