

# CHICAGO homeimprovement

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## 2010 **p.9** Kitchen & Bath Planner

An interactive guide to your remodel, plus Chicago-area projects for inspiration

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## The Kitchen



Photos courtesy of Normandy Builders

## DOUBLE THE SPACE

**BY:** Vince Weber, Normandy Builders, Hinsdale  
**LOCATION:** Wilmette **PROJECT COST:** \$130,000



**T**he main objective of this kitchen's remodel was to create a "living kitchen"—a space that could be used as a central hub in the house, where the homeowners could live comfortably day to day and still have plenty of

room for entertaining. The existing space was half the size of the new kitchen. To open the kitchen to the family room, Normandy Builders removed the wall separating the two spaces and created an addition to serve as a new eating area. By using white kitchen cabinetry with a simple, ageless door style, as well as granite countertops and modern appliances, the homeowners' desire for a timeless, bright and modern kitchen was achieved.

### MATERIALS

- Cabinets: Plain & Fancy Custom Cabinetry
- Countertops: Costa Esmeralda granite
- Flooring: Oak hardwood
- Faucet: Rohl

What type of backsplash material would you prefer?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Would you like a recyclables sorting station in/near the kitchen?:  yes  no

### household habits

Are the primary cooks:  
 right-handed  left-handed

Do you use the kitchen as a home office?  yes  no

How does the family use the kitchen?  
 daily heat-and-serve meals  
 daily full-course  meals from scratch  weekend family meals  
 hobby cooking/baking  homework  reading/games/relaxing  other \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want space for:  
 bulletin board  family organization center  artwork wall  
 memo/chalkboard  cookbooks  other \_\_\_\_\_

Do you buy food or drinks in bulk?  yes  no

How much space do you require for linens? \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you entertain?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What type of entertaining do you do?  
 cocktail party  barbecue  buffet  sit-down dinners  other \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to add these specialized storage accessories to your cabinetry?

When you're in the kitchen, how close do you like your guests to be?  
 nearby  in a separate area, away from the kitchen

- lazy Susan  ironing board
- rollout shelves  towel bar
- toe-kick stepstool
- pantry with rollout shelves
- pantry with swinging shelves
- pantry with can racks on doors  tilt-out sponge tray
- recycling/waste bins
- vertical dividers for trays and cutting boards  pullout table for two
- utensil slots (fixed or adjustable)
- knife storage in drawer  knife storage in block on countertop
- knife storage on wall magnet  liquor storage
- locked storage  tarnish-resistant silver storage
- child locks  pot rack  other \_\_\_\_\_

### storage

Do you store wine/champagne?  yes  no

Do you want:  
 an open wine cabinet  a small wine cooler  a large wine cooler  a wine cellar

## Tips... for Caring for your Wood Cabinets

"Many people make the investment in wooden kitchen cabinets and then either go overboard cleaning, use the wrong type of cleaners or don't clean enough," says I.J. Sell, owner of DirectBuy in Tinley Park. DirectBuy offers the following tips for cleaning and maintaining your wood cabinets:

- Typical cleaning can be done with a clean, damp cloth, as long as you dry thoroughly.
- For stains, clean your wood cabinets with an emulsion-type cleaner (such as Murphy's Soap). Avoid using wax polishes with petroleum solvents or silicones, as these can result in wax buildup and can harm the cabinets' wood.
- Wipe up spills as they occur, paying special attention to areas around the kitchen sink and dishwasher. Don't drape damp kitchen towels over the sink basin so that any part of the cloth rests on the wood—this can cause permanent damage.