Kitchen Buying Guide

APPLIANCE RATINGS
Best & Worst Picks From Our Pros

Refrigerators
Ranges
Cooktops
Dishwashers
Toasters

SHOP & SAVE Tips for Getting the Best Deals
Shopping With Confidence

You know you want top-notch products in your new kitchen, but how can you sell the really great gear from the not-good-enough? Good news: Consumer Reports is here to help.

Our team of kitchen pros—editors, researchers, market experts, and more—will guide you every step of the way, sharing insights straight from our labs on every piping from fridges to flooring, and more. When you’re ready to shop, turn to the Buying Guide on page 22. You’ll find thousands of ratings and reviews based on the exhaustive tests our engineers run on every product we evaluate. And our surveys of CR members reveal which brands are most likely to break, so you can avoid pricey repairs.

You can trust our advice because we’re nonprofit and independent. We buy all the products we test, and we accept no ads. So relax—buying the best for your kitchen update just got a lot easier.

—The Editors of Consumer Reports

TRENDS WATCH

Watercolor Wow Factor

After a long love affair with neutrals, designers are again flirting with color and pattern. One look we like: watery, washed-out patterns, like these Duquesa Fatima tiles, wokenzanger.com.
Make a Splash

1. Craftmade PENDANT
   Mini Pendant, $28
   LightingDirect.com
2. Water Pots (x2 pairs), $58
   inlandhome.com
3. Marjolein "Silly My Love" range, price on request
   smegusa.com
4. Watercolour Collection: Blue Lagoon (x2 plate), $52
   pyrex.com
5. 5-Quart Patterned Ceramic Bowl, $10
   kitchenaid.com

Finishing Touches

In the 1980s, polished brass owned the kitchen. The 1990s brought in the cool gleam of chrome. Next came the warmer look of nickel and the subtle texture of brushed finishes. Today? Well... brass is back (but not as yellow or shiry as before), chrome and nickel are holding their own, and matte black is coming on strong. Basically, you can't go wrong with any finish, and mixing is even better. Case in point: the Amp collection from CB2, $59.50 to $84.95; cb2.com.