



Island Time

Whether you're looking for more prep space, a bar area or more storage options, an island is a great kitchen addition. But if you haven't found a ready-made option at the store that suits your needs, you can build one yourself. It's easier than you might think, as long as you

keep these tips in mind.

First, make sure your kitchen is large enough to accommodate an island. Experts recommend leaving between four feet to 54 inches around all sides of the island to allow for easy opening of the cabinet doors. You can go as low as three feet, but it'll be a tight squeeze. Use tape on the floor to measure where the island would be to determine if the space is right.

To form a kitchen island, buy packaged cabinets at local home goods stores and then attach them to one another. These cabinets can come preassembled, or you can do it yourself. When screwing the cabinets together, put spacers in between the cabinets and be sure that all exterior surfaces are flush before fastening the units together. Take care when buying cabinet hardware to ensure it matches or complements the rest of your kitchen.

Preassembled cabinets will need a backing to make the cabinets appear as one cohesive unit. Beadboard is a good option for this, and ranges in price from \$20 to \$40 per bolt depending on the material. Beadboard is easily affixed to the backs of the cabinets with glue and nails, but will give the kitchen island a professional look.

Lastly, be choosy in selecting countertops. If you'll be preparing food, make sure that the finish and material is conducive to the task at hand — for example, a polyurethane top would not be the best option for chopping veggies, since it's not always food safe. Instead, choose a stone such as granite or marble or even ceramic tiles for a decorative touch that can withstand utensils scraping the surface.

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Buying a home is one of the biggest decisions you will ever make. So it's important to work with someone who can provide sound advice and a steady, guiding hand when you need it. Bandele Oguntomilade, a Certified Residential Specialist, is the CEO of Bogun Realty and Luxury Homes. Prior to becoming a Realtor, Bandele practiced real estate law for 11 years at fortune 500 financial institutions and she practiced architecture for 5 years at prominent architecture firms. Bogun Realty and Luxury Homes is committed to helping you acquire the home of your dreams and building wealth through real estate investment. Whether you are buying or selling real estate, as an individual, developer or other business enterprise, you will significantly benefit from our specialized knowledge, innovative consumer focused programs, experience, and friendly service. Our real estate practice is built around two key beliefs (i) homeownership is a fundamental human right, and (ii) wealth is effectively amassed through real estate acquisition. To that end, we enthusiastically serve all who strive to own their piece of the American dream. Call us at (818) 825-6996, visit www.BogunRealtyAndLuxuryHomes.com.



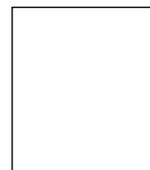
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