The kitchen is the heart of the home, let’s face it. Mums cooking or baking brings everybody to socialise in the kitchen. They say life is created in the bedroom.....well it’s safe to say it’s certainly lived in the kitchen! But when you look in your bake house chamber, do you really have everything you need? I have compiled a list of 20 must haves for any kitchen to make life easy for any working mum, stay at home dad, or messy Mary Berry wannabe’s!

I don’t know about you, but looking at different kitchen design ideas makes me want to win the lottery and spend money on the kitchen I have dreamed of for years. It’s not all doom and gloom though when money is added to the equation of kitchen hunting. You don’t even have to remove your old kitchen to replace with an expensive new one. Just improvise! A little sanding and paint, tiling and adding to your old kitchen can revamp any dated room, for a fair price. Read on for my top 20 must have kitchen ideas that will improve any large or small family life!
So when it comes down to revamping your kitchen, it’s important to pick the right worktop to suit your home. It’s pointless getting a high end expensive worktop if your children are just going to scratch it or mark it on a daily basis. I would always suggest going for a wooden effect worktop in any home purely for the warm feel it can give to any kitchen. You can get a range of effects now with many different woods to suit everybody. What is great about wooden worktops is that they must be treated before use with oil. This gives the wood a protected layer and helps it mature over the years.

Mmm I always remember the smell of cakes when I used to walk into my grandmother’s house. She would always have a cake on the go, mostly because she had a good solid oven! It’s important to have an oven that will last you a good few years, especially if you have a larger family. I would opt for an electric oven myself due to safety with the little ones. Not only does safety come into play but you can also save money on buying gas! Try and look for an oven that has a built in grill option too. You will find that this is handy for simple things like cheese on toast! Nice, quick and easy. Make sure you also clean your oven thoroughly to ensure maximum life is guaranteed!
Microwaves

If you see yourself a bit of a ‘ping chef’ then make sure you invest in a good microwave. One that is large enough to fit a plate in is great for reheating, cooking and hot chocolate making! Not only are microwaves great for large families, but for people who live as a couple or on their own. This is also good for an elderly person who may not be able to cook anymore.

Sinks

What happened to the good old days of getting elbow deep in hot soapy water, scrubbing the dishes the old fashioned way? If you can’t afford a dishwasher don’t stress. There are many sinks out there now that are designed for almost any application. From small tiny kitchens in a flat to a large open plan kitchen in a big family home, sinks come in all different shapes and sizes! You can get double sinks, ceramic sinks and sinks with built in draining boards. Find one that will suit you and your home and don’t just buy one because you like the size/shape. Think practical and invest in a sink that you can work with.
**Taps**

You can’t have a sink without taps! Again in lots of different shapes and sizes, taps are just as important regarding size and shape as the application of the sink. You can get 2 tap sinks now, with hot and cold, or you can get a 1 tap sink, where hot and cold comes out of 1 place. Whether you’re going for an industrial feel or a warm chrome finish, make sure you match the taps to the shape and size of your sink.

**Draining or plate racks**

If you have got or have opted for a sink with a draining board, it is important that you pick yourself up a plate rack to drain the dishes on. There is nothing worse than picking up dry plates that have soapy marks all over them. Time to wash them again! You will not get this effect if you grab yourself a plate rack. You can pick most up for a great price of around £20.00. A small price to pay to prevent washing twice!
Hideaway Waste bins

Yes that’s right. No more smell bins cluttering up your floor space in your kitchen. Now you can get them hidden away in a cupboard or unit and the best part is that you can get them with up to 4 bin section. Amazing if you’re big into recycling! Kids can get involved too as most are colour coded, ensuring you can’t get mixed up with your different bins. You can get them to pull out, swing out, mounted to doors and much more.

Pull out storage solutions

It’s not all about stacking shelves and balancing cups and glasses on metal wires. You can get yourself pull out draws and carousels now that you can fit all your kitchen dishes and glasses without causing a safety hazard! Again, the hidden away design of these systems allow you hide away pots and pans, dishes and glassware giving you a tidy, clutter free kitchen. You can also use these systems for jars, food packets and spices!
Pull out tables

Whether you have a super small kitchen or just generally need a little something for more worktop space, a pull out table is the ultimate space saver! In many different sizes and effects to choose from, pull out tables are used for eating off, extra veg chopping space and are great for when the kids want to do a little baking! Most can hold up to around 100kg give or take. Perfect for when you have friends round!

Hinges

It probably sounds stupid. Why should I take into consideration what hinges I use in my kitchen? Well you will be surprised! It’s pointless having gold finish hinges on your doors when you have chrome handles and knobs. Well unless you’re going for the mix and match effect which is huge for this year, then I would suggest matching the hinges to the door furniture. You can get decorative hinges too now that help to soften the masculine effect that a hinge can give off.
Door handles and knobs

As per above the best part of uplifting your kitchen is the part where you get to choose the finishing touches. You can now mix and match both drawer knobs to door handles to ensure your kitchen has the ultimate finish. Don’t be afraid to mix up pull handles with bow or ‘D’ shape handles to match with drawer knobs. Keep the metal finish the same but mix up the shapes. Mix and match is huge this year so far so don’t be afraid to push the boat out!

Drawer Handles / Knobs

The fun part. Accessorising your kitchen is probably the most less stressful part of revamping or redecorating! It’s the easy bit where you can flick through catalogues, images and scroll online to find the perfect finishes! Knobs come in different shapes and sizes and handles tend to come in ‘D’, bow or pull style. All have a great range of finishes to suit all kitchen designs from industrial and cool, to soft and round. Again, mix or match, the choices are endless!
Chopping Boards

I don’t think I have ever been into a kitchen where there is no chopping board. Let’s be honest, it’s more of a must than a want hey! We use them for slicing and dicing everything and if not chopping, then we use them as a heat defence to save our worktops. As an important part of the kitchen it’s best to invest in a chopping board that will last you a long time. No more flimsy plastic boards. Get yourself a nice thick wooden board that is easy to clean and easy to

Cutlery Inserts

Yes they are essential, well I think they are! Why would you have a drawer where cutlery is thrown in, unorganised and rolling around? Think smart and get a cutlery insert for your drawer to tidy up the kitchen. You can get them in many different sizes to ensure it will fit snug to stop rattling around.
Knife Holder

More for a safety reason rather than a tidy. If you have little ones that are reaching the height of sticking arms in kitchen drawers, then it’s time to place all sharps in a place of their own! Keep them out of reach by hanging them from the wall on top of the kitchen unit. This will keep the knives out of reach for children or even yourself, by not cutting hands by reaching into a drawer.

Worktop Protector

If you take pride in looking after your kitchen then think about getting kitchen worktop protectors. They are great for using with hot pots and pans as they act as a barrier to stop any heat affecting the kitchen units. These are also great if you have any metal items that you want to put down but do not want to scratch your work top. Stylish and practical, for an average of £20.00, it’s worth the spend to protect your worktops!
Television Lifts

Wouldn’t you like to wow your friends by having a TV in the kitchen? Well if you’re lucky enough to have one in the kitchen already, don’t just have it sat on the worktop. Treat yourself to a TV lift so your TV is hidden when not in use, then with one push a button, your TV can elevate out of the kitchen unit! You can also get these fixed to the wall so you don’t need to compromise on losing space for your kitchen units.

Plinth Drawers

Probably something that has slipped your mind while thinking of touching up the kitchen. Did you know plinth drawers can hold pots and pans underneath ovens to ensure maximum cupboard space is not cluttered? The great thing about these again is that they are hidden, ensuring no obvious adjustments can be seen. This means that a plinth draw works the same as any other drawer in the kitchen, but under the oven instead!
Stools and Seats

Like I said before, the kitchen is the heart of the house. If you have room it may be worth looking into getting some stools or seating for friends, family and guests. Not only is this a form of a socialising area, but it is also great for breakfast time, quick dinners and an area to do paperwork if you are stuck on space. Seating in a kitchen brings warmth to any kitchen by giving people the option to relax.

Dustpan and Brush

A MUST have in any kitchen! For a few pounds you can get yourself a decent dustpan and brush. We use one at home as we have a little dog and it works wonders around our home, not only the kitchen. They pick up almost anything from dirt and food to glass and hair. Easy to use for all the family, a simple dustpan and brush can help your cleaning routine massively!

So there you have it! My 20 must have’s for any kitchen, big or small! Feel free to print this PDF off and keep at home for whenever you’re looking to have a kitchen change, big or small! Use this as a guide for inspiration and take it with you when your out shopping for new kitchenware!