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# *THE 3 THINGS IKEA CAN'T DO FOR YOUR KITCHEN DESIGN*

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A Publication of  
Inspired Kitchen Design



## **IKEA sure seems like a one-stop-shop for your brand new kitchen. But scratch the surface and you'll find that's not really true.**

Walk through the IKEA kitchen showroom and you can't help but be inspired. The display kitchens are so complete you feel like you could just walk in and start cooking. Each one features a different layout using different IKEA cabinets, appliances, and decorative accessories.

Keep walking and you'll come to the area where they break it down to the nuts and bolts. You can see every different door style with information on sizing, a display that shows you every single possible SEKTION cabinet box with measurements, appliances, sinks and faucets, and more.

And in the middle of this is the kitchen services center. This is where the magic happens. IKEA kitchen specialists are there to answer questions. There are multiple workstations where you can access the IKEA Home Planner to work on your design. There are buying guides and a brochure of services IKEA can offer you to make planning for and installing your kitchen easy-as-pie.

**So it sure *sounds* like IKEA can do everything for your kitchen.** But over the years of working with our customers, we know this isn't the case. You don't have to learn the hard way like they did. You can read this ebook and get a leg up.

**These are the three things IKEA can't do for your kitchen design.**

# *WHAT IKEA CAN'T DO #1:* **HELP YOU SAVE MONEY**

IKEA is known for its affordability. Its blend of reasonable prices, top-rated cabinet construction, and Scandinavian design means getting an attractive kitchen without breaking the bank.

Oddly, however, when you plan your kitchen with IKEA, IKEA doesn't suggest where you could save money! Whether you use the Home Planner yourself, or you hire their Kitchen Planning Service, neither of them point out opportunities for savings.

For example, the biggest design highlight of SEKTION is its drawers-with-drawers. You can pick a cabinet box with only two drawer fronts, but then have four drawers inside.

Those two medium inner drawers could be MAXIMERA, and cost you approximately \$55 USD each. But if you need to cut cost, you could choose the FORVARA medium inner drawer for \$42 each. You'll have just saved yourself \$26. And we know those little things add up.

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IKEA is known for its affordability, but IKEA won't tell you where you can save money.

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Another example would be if you wanted to get the classic little white IKEA kitchen in your home. IKEA has several white and off-white options for doors:

~~VOXTORP matte white doors (\$145 USD)~~

- **BODBYN** off-white doors (\$68 USD)
- **GRIMSLÖV** off-white doors (\$60 USD)
- ~~**HITTARP** white doors (\$69 USD)~~
- **HÄGGEBY** white doors (\$3 USD)
- **RINGHULT** high-gloss white doors (\$130 USD)
- **VEDDINGE** white doors (\$16 USD)

We won't pretend these doors all look alike. The GRIMSLOV is a shaker-style door, the RINGHULT is a high-gloss white, and the HAGGEBY is flat white melamine.

**But if you're looking to save money, these are great places to play around.** Unfortunately, you'll have to figure out all the numbers yourself if you want to figure out cost differences. ~~The IKEA Home Planner doesn't let you switch door styles easily.~~ And if you buy IKEA's planning service, that person will also be working with the Home Planner.

Even if you manage to change the door style on your own on Home Planner, you'll need to change all the panels and trim one by one so that they all match your doors.

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# WHAT IKEA CAN'T DO #2: CREATE A KITCHEN DESIGN

black or italics

IKEA is careful about the word **design**. It doesn't use it when describing its services. Instead, it talks about your kitchen **plan**.

The difference between the words **design** and **plan** is huge, and yet most IKEA kitchen buyers don't notice or understand the difference.

The IKEA Home Planner is more of an app that gives you a virtual room to fill up with standard cabinet shapes and appliances. It's like Tetris, where you're trying to fit shapes together as efficiently as possible. With Tetris you're not maximizing the potential of your space. You're just filling it up.

IKEA's in-person kitchen planning service isn't much different. You are limited to four hours with someone who will help you fill in the virtual room. These planners are very practical and know how to use the software, but they are definitely not kitchen designers.

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IKEA's Home Planner is like Tetris: you're trying to fit shapes together as efficiently as possible. **But that's not kitchen design.**

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Design is about **you**. Design thinks about:

- **The unique way in which you use your kitchen.** If your young children are helping you in the kitchen, you'll want items within reach of those little hands. Or, if you have a small kitchen with limited counter space, but you also have a lot of small appliances, you'll want an appliance garage to tuck everything away.
- **Your personal style, or flair.** What colors do you like? Those little metal cup handles are popular right now, but you hate them. Which handle style would look best with the door style you like?
- **The solutions you don't know about.** You could just plop in IKEA's cookie cutter storage solutions. Or, you could get creative with your cabinets and build a kitchen island, a custom appliance garage, or a hideaway laptop station.

Hiring a professional kitchen designer unlocks these options for you.

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# WHAT IKEA CAN'T DO #3: SAVE YOU FROM FATAL FLAWS

This is the most serious “What IKEA Can’t Do” of them all. You can figure out how to save yourself money, even though the process is cumbersome. You can just fill up the space with IKEA shapes and have a kitchen that works well enough for you.

But with this “IKEA Can’t Do” you could end up with fatal flaws in your kitchen. **Not to be too dramatic, but these could be literally fatal.** At the very least you could end up with design that just doesn’t work.

please don't split  
the word in two

**Let’s start with the flaw that isn’t harmful to people: corner fillers.**

IKEA’s Home Planner won’t tell you where you must add fillers if you want to be able to open a cabinet door fully and not damage the door! (They don’t use the word fillers either. They sell ~~“plinths.”~~) They just tell you that there has to be a panel. They don't explain it or specify it for you.

All SEKTION cabinet doors need breathing room. If you place one next to a wall, you need to add a ~~plinth~~ next to the wall so you have enough room to open the door fully. SEKTION ~~plinths~~ are ~~4.5” wide~~ (IKEA uses the word “height” however).

filler

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Ikea’s Home Planner wont show or allow you to design with countertop support panels. **This design flaw could literally be fatal.**

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**The more serious flaw is how the IKEA Home Planner concerns countertop support.** Cabinets support the countertop. Appliances don't. If you have a cabinet run that ends with a desk or an appliance, you must add additional support for the countertop! Not adding in this support will lead to your kitchen literally falling apart. Very, very dangerous.

VOXTORP

The IKEA Home Planner does not show you or allow you to design with the non-negotiably necessary countertop/appliance support panel (these panels are sized at W26" x H36" and W36" x H96" and are 5/8" thick except for the ~~HITTARP~~ which is 3/4" thick. A panel of lesser thickness will not provide the necessary support). If you're not a kitchen designer, you won't know to allow for the panel in your IKEA Home Planner file.

**Think about that for a moment. You have to wonder what else the Home Planner isn't telling you you might need for your design!**

## **You Can Still Get an IKEA Kitchen You Love**

Now you have the knowledge about what IKEA can't do for your kitchen design, and knowledge is power. With these extra tips, you should have everything you need to make sure your new IKEA kitchen is functional and safe.

**And if you need help, we're here for you.**

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