

5 Invest in quality

Hand-made bespoke kitchens are costly, but you are paying for the skills of a master craftsman trained to produce top levels of quality. 'We use traditional construction methods, such as dovetail-jointed drawers and jointed carcasses, alongside modern fittings including heavy-duty runners,' says Martin Holliday, Design Director of Chiselwood. 'This ensures a kitchen that will withstand the everyday demands put upon it.'

What's your budget?

Investment With a bespoke kitchen you're not restricted by 'ranges' and can have anything you like; try Artichoke for one-off kitchens, from £60,000.

Mid-range Buying from a set 'made-to-measure' range saves money, but still means a kitchen that fits like a glove. Try John Lewis of Hungerford, from £12,000.

Cost-conscious The Used Kitchen Company offers second-hand and ex-display hand-crafted kitchens. Prices start from around £5,000.



Bespoke kitchens, from £35,000, Chiselwood.

6 Plan a dining area

Don't leave the cook out in the cold when entertaining – today's well-crafted kitchen includes space for eating. 'A table and chairs is clearly the most flexible solution, but in many kitchens space is limited,' says Steven de Munnich, Design Director, Smallbone of Devises. 'Built-in bench seating can prove the ideal way forward in this situation, especially if designed to integrate with kitchen cabinetry.' This

built-in, architectural approach creates a coherent dining area.

What's your budget?

Investment Commission upholstered seating to fit snugly in your kitchen. The Sofa & Chair Company's bespoke banquet benches start at £575 a linear metre, plus fabric.

Mid-range John Lewis's dining department has an impressive selection, including Bethan Gray's Noah range, £999 for an extending oak dining table.

Cost-conscious Ikea's bistro-style Billsta table, £139, and Balser chairs, £39 each, are perfect for occasional dining in small spaces.



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