



Satisfying Set Up

How to Outfit Your First Kitchen

Story and Photos by Mandy Taylor

Newlywed Amy Jo Baughman sat in her small college apartment trying to figure out the first steps to take to prepare to move into a new apartment with her new husband. Baughman, a recent graduate and new employee of The Ohio State University, decides that her biggest fear of moving, is outfitting her first real kitchen.

"I was excited to move from a very small apartment to a larger and nicer two-bedroom apartment," said Baughman, "However, I was nervous about everything I needed in the kitchen."



Having a personal kitchen is exciting and daunting at the same time. There are so many options, but which ones are necessities. Here are some suggestions for all first time homeowners looking to successfully outfit their first kitchen.

Out with the Old

When moving into a new kitchen, a useful starting point is taking inventory of everything you have and if it is time to get rid of it or not. The deciding factor: Is it for nostalgia or something that is actually useful.

Like most cheap college students, Baughman had a plethora of plastic dishes, but she knew it was time to part ways with her favorite cup that read "2013 Ohio State Involvement Fair".

"As I was pulling things out of the cupboard, I was asking myself, do I really need this anymore?" said Baughman. "Looking back, this was a very smart first step."

Buying on a Budget

Christie Chapman, the sales team lead at the Columbus Crate & Barrel, said many shoppers are overwhelmed by the options, and the different prices often range by hundreds of dollars.

More expensive may mean higher quality, but most first-time kitchens don't need the

There are numerous options when it comes to small kitchen utensils, but investing in quality will help with cooking.

absolute best. Chapman said, "You can walk away with the essentials spending only \$100."

Shoppers really only need one fry pan, one good wood spoon, one kitchen knife. You can get really creative with only \$100, but the price of a full elaborate kitchen would go up from there.

What to Buy

Lauren Marshall sorted through a display of kitchen supplies. Her job at Crate & Barrel is to help engaged couples decide which kitchen items they would like on their wedding registry. She explained that there are three main sections that staff highlights for kitchen newbies: cookware, machines and gadgets, and cutlery.

"When someone comes in who is just starting a new part of their life in a new home or apartment, we normally recommend good cookware," said Marshall. "It may seem expensive, but it is a really good investment, because they are durable."

She explained that non-stick items are cheaper but will have to be replaced after a couple years because the Teflon wears off, whereas a stainless steel pan, skillet, or pot has a lifetime warranty that will last forever. Both workers at Crate & Barrel said it's important to make buying decisions based on your style of cooking.

"We ask how people like to cook, and we make recommendations based on their answers," said Marshall.

Trying to find the difference between cutlery can also be daunting but Marshall explains that people starting out don't need an elaborate set of knives.

"They look at a knife that is \$59 compared to one that is \$500, and they are overwhelmed with the difference in price," Chapman said.

Marshall, who often works in the cutlery section said, "We often recommend getting a knife block and simple set."



There are also many utensils that look like they'd be fun to buy, but they aren't necessary for your first few years in the real world.

"Small gadgets such as whisks, juicers, ladles are hard because a lot of it is so unnecessary but very cool and fun to have," Marshall said, "I normally suggest that if they're going to use it at least once a week, they should to get it."

"I think that the most important thing someone could have in their first kitchen would be a toaster. Even if you're struggling starting out, you can always find something to make that can be made using a toaster."

Take It In Stride

After seeking advice from her family, close friends, and coworkers Amy Jo Baughman said that she felt less overwhelmed with the task of outfitting her kitchen.

"Definitely using other people's advice was so helpful" she said.

She said that while outfitting your first kitchen can be stressful, the end result is rewarding because, it was a growing experience for her and her husband. With a beaming smile, she said that she is delighted with the outcome of her kitchen and her new home as a whole.

"Moving is a huge transition, but you have to remember to take all of the change in stride, because it can't be done overnight."



Over time you will collect kitchen items that will help you make your dream kitchen a reality.