

NORTHWEST

FREE

RENOVATION

April/May 2014

A HOME IMPROVEMENT MAGAZINE

Small Kitchen Makeover

Unearthing Basement Treasures

Storage Envy: 10 Interior Cabinet Features Sure to Induce Spring Fever!

www.nwrenovation.com



Storage Envy: 10 Interior Cabinet Features Sure to Induce Spring Fever!

By Ivy Crouse

Photography by Photo Art Portraits

Spring has sprung and it's time to get organized! Something about this time of year sends you diving into the back of your cabinets, searching for that missing can of soup, only to find a surplus of staple foods that could have sustained you through Portland's recent snowstorm.

This year, try a new approach to spring cleaning. Leave the flashlight and kneepads behind and check out these ten interior cabinet features that will blow your mind, not your budget. Whether you are replacing your cabinetry or working within your existing cabinets, you are sure to find many interior options to make mealtime a little less chaotic.

1 Wooden Pantry Pull-Out Shelves

Solid maple boxes joined together with dovetail joints make a robust vertical storage system that is great for keeping canned goods and pantry items organized and accessible. Depending on the quality of the box, hardware, and guides, each shelf can support around 70 lbs. These shelves stretch the entire depth of the cabinet and pull out to you for complete convenience.

Another great feature of this accessory is that it can be installed at the same time as your cabinetry, or retrofitted to your existing cabinets.



2 Vertical Metal Pantry Pull-Out

This vertical metal pantry pull out is another way to take advantage of vertical storage, tolerating a whoppin' 250 lbs! It is great for bulk baking ingredients, food boxes, or even heavier items such as soda cans. Accessible from both sides, these metal pull out pantry units are a great option when horizontal space is limited, as they can be installed in a pantry cabinet as narrow as 12".



3 Wooden Base Pull-Out Shelves

Similar to the example shown in number two with the wooden pantry pull-outs, wooden base pull-out shelves can be dispersed throughout the lower kitchen cabinets, to keep things easily accessible. Installing these pull outs down below is a great way to keep you off your hands and knees, allowing items such as your pots and pans to pull out to you, instead of the opposite.

One location we are more routinely installing wooden base pull-outs is below the kitchen sink. This storage solution is long overdue for most homeowners, whose experience below the sink closely resembles a bowling "Strike!" when searching for the Windex. This interior cabinet sensation can also be purchased as an after-market item, allowing those who cannot afford a full kitchen remodel to experience at least some of the glory.



4 Trash and Recycling Pull-Out

One of my personal favorite interior cabinet features is the double trash and recycling bin pull-out. It only takes one time of the dog rummaging through the garbage to realize, "The trash needs a new home!" Cleverly disguised with a cabinet front, the trash and recycling side-by-side is stowed away within the kitchen cabinetry. As far as the dog is concerned, when it's out-of-sight it's out-of-mind. And if you opt to install an electronic marvel such as the Servo drive, your trash bin will dutifully reappear with one tap of the knee. Finally, someone has noted that in approaching



the trash bin, our hands are rarely clean enough to warrant touching the lid or cabinet pull, so this hands-free solution is the answer!

5 Spice Pull-Out

Another item that too commonly fights for a spot in the kitchen is your spice collection. An essential component for any cook, this metal spice pull-out is perfect for storing your spices, as well as your oils, right next to the cooking surface for ease of use.



6 Tray and Cookie Sheet Dividers

Tray and cookie sheet dividers are an oldie-but-goodie in the realm of interior cabinet features. One idea that has changed over the years is when installing these type dividers, it's all about placement. In older homes, we commonly see them in the lower base cabinets, often beside the range. We have found that cookie sheets, trays, and platters are not something we use every day, and which therefore don't merit a home in our most easily accessible cabinets. It is becoming a trend to stow the dividers up and away, above the wall oven or refrigerator, so they are out of the way but easy to access when needed.



7 Blind Base Corner Pull-Outs

Blind base corner pull-outs are one of the biggest game changers to date in cabinet storage. These kidney shaped pull out trays swing out to greet you, accounting for nearly every inch of your 48" cabinet space. In the past, these blind corners were often referred to as "the black hole," as it would take a small



child to access whatever mysterious things were hiding back there. Nothing short of a miracle, these blind base corner pull-outs are great for storing everything from the slow cooker to mixing bowls.

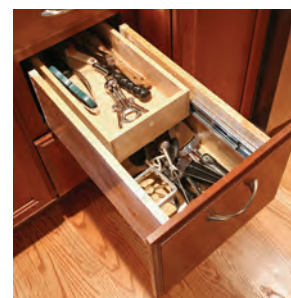
8 Upper and Lower Corner Lazy Susans

Don't have enough space for a blind base corner pull out? Give this corner lazy Susan a spin and you'll never look back. Unlike the old lazy Susans, these have slip-resistant shelves and rails to keep your items organized and in place — no more sliding off the back! These units can hold up to 150 lbs and are available for both upper and lower cabinets.



9 Tiered Cutlery Dividers

A place for everything and everything in its place — these tiered dividers are every organizer's dream. This feature offers layers of storage for deep drawers. Divided cutlery, saran wrap, and dishtowels, all in the same drawer. Amazing!



10 Peg Organizer System

With more focus on aging in our homes, it is no wonder the peg organizer has grown in popularity. These pegs can be unscrewed and adjusted to whatever you would like to store. Utilized in a deep drawer, it's a great way to keep plates, pots, pans, lids, or Tupperware in order. Your kids will never have an excuse for not setting the table and it will be easier on the grandparents as well.



With so many amazing interior cabinetry features available, one can truly make the most of any kitchen. Kick into spring and build the kitchen of your dreams today, starting from the inside out. ■

Ivy Crouse, CKD, is a Certified Kitchen Designer for Pacific Northwest Cabinetry. All of these accessories and more can be viewed in the Pacific Northwest Cabinetry Showroom. To contact them, call 503-652-1268 or visit www.pacificnwcabinetry.com.