



# **DID YOU KNOW? – JULY 2011**

**This month includes:**

- **Adding A Kitchen Island**
- **Project Pictures: Kitchen Renovation**
- **\$30,000 Merillat Kitchen Makeover Contest**
- 

*The KitchenWright*

*912 South Rangeline Road, Suite 100  
Phone: 317-848-1111*

*Carmel, Indiana 46032  
www.TheKitchenWright.com*

## **Adding A Kitchen Island**

Installing a kitchen island is an excellent remodeling project to improve the functionality of your kitchen and add unique design elements to your home. The island can be as simple or elaborate as the homeowner's taste. Larger kitchens may even have multiple islands, serving a number of purposes.



To ensure the island is designed and located correctly, it is important to consider how the island will be used. Islands provide additional storage in the kitchen, serve as a buffet for large meals or entertaining, create incremental countertop/food preparation space, or establish an area for specific tasks, such as baking. In a number of instances, the island incorporates additional appliances, including cooktops, undercounter microwave, or wine storage. Many islands have an informal eating space for snacks, breakfasts, or quick meals. Understanding your needs will make the island as functional as possible.



There are a number of items to consider in planning an island addition. The first step is determining if there is enough room for an island. Kitchen design guidelines suggest having a 36" – 42" walkway between the island and perimeter cabinets. This facilitates movement around the island and ensures the ability to open/close appliance doors. The island also needs to fit with the kitchen's current work flow/work triangle. An easy way to check fit is to layout the island's shape using masking tape/boxes. Then, live with the "imaginary" island for a week to determine if the layout works. The tape/boxes can be adjusted to deal with any shortcomings. If appliances are included in the island, you will need to understand the implications of running electricity/gas to the island. This can be more challenging when the foundation is a concrete slab.

From a design perspective, the island can be very simple or serve as a focal point for the kitchen. The options are virtually limitless. Cabinets and countertops can be chosen to blend in with the existing design, or provide a contrasting look using a different style/finish. The island can be designed in a single height, or multiple heights, creating additional interest. A higher level bar top can provide seating at the island and help shield food preparation and clean-up from the adjacent living space.



A well designed island will be a valuable addition to your home and increase the enjoyment and functionality of your kitchen.

## Project Pictures: Kitchen Renovation

We recently wrapped up a kitchen remodeling project with an Indianapolis homeowner. The kitchen has a completely different look with the new cabinetry, hardwood flooring, and tile backsplash. The homeowner chose a very unique tile mosaic to help create a focal point over the cooktop. Enjoy the before and after pictures for this kitchen renovation.

**Before**



**After**







## **\$30,000 Works Like a Dream Kitchen Makeover Contest**

Just a reminder, Merillat Cabinetry's Work Like a Dream Kitchen Makeover contest is still underway. The Grand Prize is a \$30,000 kitchen makeover. The contest runs through August 1, 2011. Go to [www.merillat.com](http://www.merillat.com) to enter and for complete contest rules. Good Luck!

---

Serving Carmel, Noblesville, Fishers, Westfield, and Indianapolis-area homeowners **The KitchenWright** offers innovative cabinet design, excellent service, and fine cabinetry for new construction and remodeling projects. Please contact us for a free design consultation. If you have any questions or would like to talk about a kitchen or bath redesign, please give us a call (317-848-1111), stop by our showroom in Carmel, Indiana, or send us an email at [Info@TheKitchenWright.com](mailto:Info@TheKitchenWright.com)