

# 10 Must-Have KITCHEN FEATURES



## CENTRAL ISLAND

Once the mark of an upscale “gourmet” kitchen, the central island is now literally the heart of good kitchen design. Providing room for extra storage, extra prep stations, extra seating and even extra office space, like the Covell Galveston kitchen above, this versatile workhorse has become a must-have feature for most homebuyers. With trends like colorful cabinets, ornate trim details, and bold, standout pendant lights, this living space focal point can make your guests feel welcome the moment they enter the space.



## FEATURE LIGHTING

A very simple neutral kitchen design can come to life with just a couple of interesting hanging lights or pendants over a work space. There’s been an explosion of choices in recent years; above, two drum pendants light up the island in our Monterey Legacy.



## GRANITE COUNTERTOPS

This practical and beautiful option is a must-have with homebuyers for good reason: not only does it increase the wow factor, but unlike its laminate cousins, its stain resistance and durability keep the kitchen from looking worn and dated before its time. Granite has long been a standard option in Covell kitchens, with quartz another eye-catching, long-lasting choice.



## WALK-IN PANTRIES

During Covid, the need for pantry storage reached critical mass, with homeowners wanting fewer trips for household supplies and stock up on bulk purchases instead. But the shift has been a long time in coming, ever since warehouse shopping at places like Costco and Sam’s Club became a popular way to stock our homes. A range of options can be offered, like the spacious corner walk-in pantry pictured above in our Port Royal Legacy, or the butler’s pantry featured above right that adds secondary storage and additional prep space.



*The National Association of Home Builders asked homebuyers which kitchen features were on their wish lists - and which ones they couldn't live without. Here are some of their top picks.*



## PULL-OUT SHELVES

Homeowners say they like the convenience of kitchen cabinets that don’t require them to practically crawl inside to find things. Roll-out trays and extra large drawers like the one featured here offer back-saving options for storing heavy pots and pans and countertop appliances; pull-out cabinets for everything from trash and recycling to spices to laundry and even your microwave keep visual clutter organized and out of sight.



## CUSTOM BACKSPASHES

In a kitchen filled with standard features, this is one way to allow your personality to shine. From pops of color along an otherwise neutral wall, to a whole section of ornate tile, the right backsplash can really bring a kitchen to life and pull together all of its elements. In our East Port home above, the high-contrast quartz countertop is also used as a backsplash, giving the otherwise neutral kitchen a strong focal point.



## A POP OF COLOR

A small burst of color to breathe life into a very neutral space is a common interior design trick, but it’s not limited to throw pillows and rugs; kitchen designs can benefit from the technique as well. A few brightly colored accent tiles in the backsplash, colorful pendant lights, colorful drawer pulls, even island cabinets in a color that completely contrasts the rest of the kitchen, can add a bright, updated flair to a classic kitchen design. Above, the central island’s bright blue cabinets make it an eye-catching centerpiece of the open living space in our Kitty Hawk Classic.



## MULTIUSE KITCHEN SPACE

This “trend” might be as old as kitchens themselves, from when kitchens were built around a fireplace that cooked the food, heated the home and gave the family a place to gather. Now many kitchens feature islands that do double and triple duty, and zones that make the most of the home’s central room. From islands that double as dining tables, homework stations and meeting tables, to separate wine bars, pocket offices, and coffee and breakfast stations, versatility is key for the modern kitchen.



## RECESSED LIGHTING

This classic feature is still on-trend with homebuyers for its sheer functionality, keeping kitchen surfaces bright and well-lit. They can be dimmed to change the mood and de-emphasize the kitchen in an open floor plan, or brightened in areas to light up a work space. Recessed lights are a standard option in all Covell kitchens, and are usually layered with eye-catching pendants to update the look and keep the focus both modern and versatile.

