

ON the GO



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KITCHEN LIGHTING

What to Consider When Designing Your Kitchen

BY KATE DAVIDSON | When designing any kitchen, lighting is such an important factor and needs to be carefully considered. We put much thought now into the cabinetry, appliances and countertops. Don't forget about how important it is that your kitchen needs to be properly lit to not only make it highly functional but also to show off all of its great design features.



As a designer I have learned that it is most important to illuminate a kitchen in 3 different levels. The first being the overall — by using pot lights. The second being function — by adding lighting undercounter and above the sink and stove. And lastly being accent — such as pendants over your island or highlighting other feature areas.

To create an overall glow and brighten the kitchen without natural light, pot lights are fantastic since they give off a crisp light which will make everything sparkle. Put your pot lights on dimmers and highlight different areas with separate switches. Pot lights are now available in so many varieties, shapes, colours and sizes. LED potlights are definitely

worth the expense as they have a longer life and are available to give off a warmer light.

Undercounter lights are concealed under your cabinets and are typically an inexpensive fluorescent. We recommend a warm fluorescent bulb or LED rope lighting in a warm tone so you can feature nicely the items on your counters.

For accent lighting, this is where you can have fun. I always say, the lighting and cabinet hardware are the jewelry for any kitchen; the lighting will define the look you are trying to achieve from traditional to rustic or to add some whimsy.

One of my great Toronto lighting go-to resources is **Royal Lighting**. They provide a vast array of the latest product selections available that you'll need for creating a stylish, functional kitchen space.

Keep in mind if you are also purchasing kitchen appliances, consider what type of lighting they come with as this may affect the mapping out your lighting plan and adjust accordingly. When I design clients' kitchens I love incorporating floating shelves into the kitchen; incorporating hidden lighting with puck or LED rope

lights into or underneath these shelves for a custom look while being practical.

If you have interesting ceiling details like a cove or tray ceiling in your kitchen, create a nice ambiance by uplighting it with LED rope systems. This will add the WOW factor when entertaining.

Most importantly, finally please remember to map out your lighting effectively at the beginning of a project. Consider hiring a company like ours at the beginning to ensure your kitchen is the most functional it can be.



Accredited designer **Kate Davidson** is the principal of Kate Davidson Design inc. The firm is a multi-disciplinary interior design

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