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12 Small Pantry Ideas to Make the Most Out of Tight Spaces

Streamline your kitchen storage space with these strategically stylish design tips from interiors experts

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January 16, 2024



Photo: Courtesy of TileCloud

Stumped for small pantry ideas? Fear not: You can transform your small pantry into a space that's equal parts practical and design-forward. Devin Shaffer, lead interior designer at Decorilla in San Francisco, acknowledges that kitchen pantry spaces can be some of the most challenging projects for interior designers to work on—mainly because storage and function come first, and style, second. That said, Shaffer doesn't despair upon tackling these areas, which have the power to host the most clever and creative design in the home. "It's amazing what's possible," Shaffer says. "Even the tiniest pantry can be functional and gorgeous when you strategically design it." He adds that elements like sliding drawers, over-the-door racks, harmonious color palettes, and natural materials will be game changers. (Once you try pull-out drawers, you'll be a convert for good.)

Home organizing expert Amanda Wiss emphasizes the importance of using vertical space over depth to organize a small pantry. Wiss, founder and CEO of home organizing company Urban Clarity and the Brooklyn-based home staging company Urban Staging, knows that "you want to be able to see all your items easily, [and] not go digging for a package of snacks in the back." Wiss looks to risers, stackable containers, additional shelves, and baskets as some of the organizational heroes to make use of every bit of vertical storage space—including the door.

Read on for 12 small pantry ideas to make the most of that awkward nook, tight closet, or even a few shelves and an undercounter cabinet.



Photo: Stacy Zarin Goldberg

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Or try sleek and discreet double doors

Michael Sauri, co-owner and president of [TriVistaUSA Design + Build](#) in Arlington, Virginia, shares that this pantry closet area was built as intended—however, it was constrained by an air duct that was required for [HVAC](#), which was larger than it was originally expected to be. The pantry ended up being smaller than anticipated as a result, so the TriVistaUSA designers worked to ensure that the pantry would be effective even with its smaller footprint, reviewing everything from cereal box heights to appliance outlets. “The pantry entrance was masked by doors that match the kitchen cabinetry we used so that the design looks like upper and lower cabinets,” says Sauri, pointing out that there’s no latch on the door; instead, it opens using regular cabinet handles. No detail was overlooked in completing the design, including a light switch inside the cabinet door where recessed [lights](#) illuminate stored items for ease of access. The shelves were painted with trim to match the rest of the project.