

Compact Kitchens and Laundries

Key Considerations When Designing for Smaller Spaces

The rise of compact living



The number of **Australians living in apartments** has increased by

78%

over the last 25 years.



The **floor area** of new apartments over the **past 15 years** has shrunk

17.5%

on average.



Compact living trends have changed the role of the kitchen and laundry in the average Australian home.

They need to be **tighter** and more **concise**, while catering to the homeowner's desire for flexibility.

Key challenges when designing for small living spaces

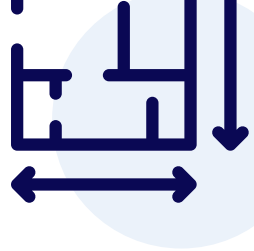
Visual clutter that creates a feeling of being enclosed or cramped.

Lack of **physical space** for furniture, appliances & fixtures.

Limited **storage** options.

Poor **ergonomics** and difficulty navigating the space.

Thinking smaller but smarter: Space-planning considerations



Layout considerations

- Specific user requirements and lifestyle needs;
- The appliance needs for the space;
- The number of people using the space;
- Frequency of cooking, washing and storage needs;
- Water, electric and gas supply; and
- Accessibility requirements for users with limited mobility.

Space-saving concepts

- Smaller space does not necessarily mean less liveable. Consider the following space-saving solutions to optimise space efficiency:
 - Compact kitchen/laundry layouts (e.g. one-wall, L-shaped or U-shaped)
 - Vertical storage solutions
 - Lightweight and modular furniture
 - Compact or combined appliances

Choosing and integrating appliances

Integration

- Integrated appliances creates a seamless kitchen that expands the usable living space of the compact home.
- Clever cabinetry design, such as incorporating pocket doors, allows for traditional built-in appliances like built-in ovens and refrigerators to be concealed.

Size and footprint

- There are a variety of compact appliance solutions on the market, including single ovens and streamlined cooktops with one or two burners.
- Some brands offer multi-function appliances such as combined ovens and microwaves, or combined washers and dryers.

Functionality

- Kitchen appliances should provide the appropriate functionality for the user's lifestyle.
- Choosing the right appliances will ensure that no space is wasted, but it may require clever design to allow for the installation of full-sized products, not just compact products.

Efficiency

- Compact homes are often designed with sustainability and efficiency in mind.
- The costs of running the appliance should be compared to other models, with the most energy and water-efficient model preferred.
- The quality and longevity of the appliance should also factor into the equation - products that are designed to last will minimise the resources needed for repairs and replacement.

Style

- Consider the style of the appliance and whether it fits the aesthetic of the rest of the space.

Solutions for small-space living by Electrolux

- As a leading global appliance company, Electrolux places the consumer at the heart of everything. Through its family of brands, including Electrolux, AEG, Westinghouse and Vintec, as well as international brands Frigidaire and Zanussi, Electrolux sells more than 60 million household and professional products in more than 150 markets every year.
- Each component in a compact kitchen or laundry must be perfectly planned, from the layout to the appliances, and all must work cohesively to run smoothly. Electrolux can help squeeze every inch of functionality from your kitchen or laundry with its range of appliances.
 - To discover Electrolux's full range of appliances perfect for compact living, visit electrolux.com.au/commercial
 - **For more inspiration**, visit Electrolux's Compact Urban Living space within the Electrolux Experience Centre at its Mascot location.

Designing for Smaller Spaces

Kitchen & Laundry Considerations for Multi-Residential Dwellings

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