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Five practical solutions for taming the mess around your kitchen sink

It's easy to ignore the clutter around the kitchen sink as you're rinsing kale or scrubbing a frying pan.

But if you stop to take a critical eye to your sink and the counters around it, you might get a bit of a jolt. These spaces often become repositories of drippy bottles, grungy sponges and assorted junk. This can be especially true if your kitchen is small and lacking counter space or storage.

"Simplicity is what you want around your sink," says Henhurst's [Phyllis Trevor Higginson](#), a New England designer and photo stylist. "As a workspace, you want it to be functional." In her own small kitchen, she uses a [Simon Pearce dinner plate](#) sinkside to keep her products neat: a wooden dish brush in a bowl, refillable Italian glass bottles holding soap and hand lotion and a white crock of eucalyptus. Dishwasher tabs are stashed in a stoneware canister from T.J. Maxx. She will sometimes light a candle when she's doing dishes. "It's important to elevate the things and places we use every day," she says. "It doesn't have to be a stage set, but why not use beautiful things?"

We checked in with some design pros to get some tricks on how to make our kitchen sink areas more functional, organized and attractive.



A Christopher Peacock-designed kitchen features an integrated dish draining board. (Christopher Peacock)

[Christopher Peacock](#), president and chief executive of the high-end kitchen company that bears his name, integrates dish drying into some of his custom kitchens from the start: “Sometimes we take a piece of marble or wood next to the sink and cut grooves in it — sort of like the draining board is integrated into the countertop, and it drains directly into the sink.” Then there’s no need for a dish rack.



This Christopher Peacock kitchen shows a sink clear of clutter besides a wooden dish brush in a small holder and a line of blooming bulbs. (Christopher Peacock)

Give yourself a green focal point. Peacock always tries to install a kitchen sink below a window, “looking out onto something green and pretty,” he says. If you don’t have a great view from the kitchen sink, a houseplant can help.