# Kitchen *dimensions* and clearances

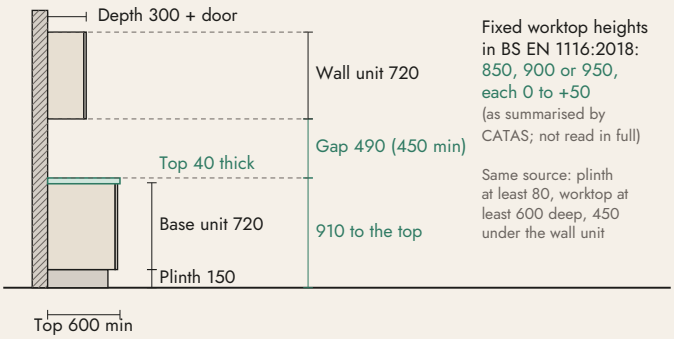
Kitchen unit sizes, worktop and wall unit heights, aisle widths and the work triangle, each with where it comes from: a standard we could only read in summary, UK catalogue practice, US guidelines, or Approved Document M for accessible homes in England. The plan drawing is on the web page.

Compliance guidance. Figures are quoted from the documents named; BS EN 1116 was read only in a testing institute's summary. Check the current edition and your building control body. This is guidance, not legal or accessibility advice; the studio does not certify compliance.

## AT A GLANCE

| Item | Figure, mm | Source | Note |
|---|---|---|---|
| Worktop height | 850, 900 or 950, each 0 to +50 | BS EN 1116:2018, CATAS summary | Fixed worktops only. Catalogue kitchens give 900 to 910. |
| Base unit and top | 720 carcase on a 150 plinth or legs; 30 to 40 top | Three UK planning guides | Gives 900 to 910. Catalogue practice, not a standard. |
| Depths and plinth | Plinth 80 min; worktop 600 min deep; wall unit 310 to 400 deep | BS EN 1116:2018, CATAS summary | Catalogue: base 560 and wall unit 300, each plus the door. |
| Wall units | 575, 720 or 900 high; underside 450 min above the worktop | BS EN 1116:2018, CATAS summary; UK guides | 450 to 500 is usual. Tall units 1,970 or 2,150 plus legs. |
| Module widths | Bases 400, 500, 600, 900 nominal | BS EN 1116:2018, CATAS summary | Catalogue units run from 150 to 1,000. |
| Aisles | Work aisle 1,067 (one cook) or 1,219; walkway 914 | NKBA guidelines 6 and 7 (US) | Measured between fronts, tall units and appliances. |
| Work triangle | Legs 1,200 to 2,700; total 7,900 or less | NKBA guideline 3 (US) | A planning aid, not a rule. |
| Accessible homes | Clear 1,200 (M4(2)) or 1,500 (M4(3)) in front of and between units | Approved Document M vol. 1, 2.24(b), 3.32(b) | England, dwellings. |

Millimetres from the finished floor. CATAS is an Italian testing institute: we read its summary of BS EN 1116, not the standard. NKBA is the US National Kitchen & Bath Association.




Section through a base unit, worktop and wall unit, in millimetres. Heights and depths from the catalogue guides and the CATAS summary of BS EN 1116:2018. Schematic, not for production. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

## SPECIFICATION WORDING

### WORKTOP AND WALL UNIT HEIGHTS

Worktop [910] mm above finished floor level, measured to the top surface: [150] mm plinth or adjustable leg, [720] mm carcase and [40] mm top. Underside of wall units [1,400] mm above finished floor level and not less than [450] mm above the worktop. Heights to be set for [the principal user / the access brief] and shown on the shop drawing.

### DEPTHS, CLEARANCES AND OPENINGS

Worktop depth [600] mm. Wall unit depth [320] mm including doors. Clear width between opposing fronts, including handles and open appliance doors, not less than [1,200] mm at [the main aisle]; checked on site before manufacture. Appliance openings to the maker's installation drawing for [appliance and model], confirmed in writing before manufacture.

### ACCESSIBLE KITCHEN, WHERE REQUIRED

Kitchen to meet Approved Document M volume 1, [2015 edition incorporating 2016 amendments], category [M4(2) / M4(3)], paragraphs [2.24(b) / 3.32 to 3.34]: clear space of [1,200 / 1,500] mm in front of and between units and appliances, and for M4(3) a worktop section as paragraph 3.34. Compliance to be accepted by [building control body / access consultant] before manufacture.

## TERMS USED

### Plinth

The recessed base under a run of units that gives toe space and lets the floor be cleaned; at least 80 mm high in the standard's coordinating sizes, as summarised by CATAS.

### Work aisle

The clear width between counter fronts, tall units and appliances where a cook works; the NKBA recommends at least 1,067 mm for one cook and 1,219 mm for more.

### Work triangle

The distances between the cooking surface, the sink and the refrigerator, each from the centre-front of the item. The NKBA limits each leg to 1,200 to 2,700 mm and the total to 7,900 mm.

## STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- BS EN 1116:2018 Kitchen furniture, coordinating sizes: named; summary read (CATAS, June 2018).
- BS ISO 3055:2021 Kitchen equipment, coordinating sizes: named, not read.
- Approved Document M volume 1, 2015 edition incorporating 2016 amendments (England): paragraphs 2.24, 3.32 to 3.34, Tables 3.3 and 3.4.
- NKBA Kitchen Planning Guidelines with Access Standards (US): guidelines 3, 6 to 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 23, 25.
- CATAS, UNI EN 1116:2018 Coordinating sizes for kitchen furniture and kitchen appliances (June 2018)

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/kitchen-design-dimensions-and-clearances. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.