



## KITCHEN COUNTERTOP AND CABINET PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Planning & Building • 2263 Santa Clara Ave., Rm. 190  
Alameda, CA 94501-4477  
510.747.6800 • F: 510.865.4053 • TDD: 510.522.7538  
Hours: M, W, Th – 7:30 am – 4:30 pm  
T – 7:30 am – 4:00 pm

### Pre May 4, 1989

The replacement of kitchen countertops and cabinets in buildings originally built prior to May 4, 1989 wherein the kitchen has not been legally remodeled since May 4, 1989, shall require a permit to upgrade the **kitchen electrical** to current code. *Full* kitchen remodel permits shall *not* be required solely on the basis of replacing the countertops or cabinets.

### Post May 4, 1989

In kitchens built or legally remodeled after May 4, 1989, the replacement of countertops and cabinets in their current locations will **not** trigger any required permits.

### FULL KITCHEN REMODEL PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Full kitchen remodel permits shall be triggered by the relocation of plumbing, the reconfiguration of cabinets and countertops, the expansion of an existing kitchen, and/or the construction, demolition or opening of walls in an existing kitchen.



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### ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR KITCHENS

#### 2007 California Electrical Code [CEC] Articles 210.8(A) and 210.52

When any kitchen addition or remodeling involves the alteration, repair, move, demolition, or replacement of the countertop, cabinets, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system (excluding the replacement of kitchen appliances and fixtures), the new and/or existing electrical system shall be brought to full compliance with the current electrical code pertaining to kitchen electrical requirements.

#### Small Appliances:

1. In the kitchen pantry, breakfast room dining room or similar area of a dwelling unit, two or more dedicated 20-ampere small-appliance branch circuits shall serve all wall and floor receptacle outlets all countertop outlets, and receptacle outlets for refrigeration equipment.

*Exception No. 1: Switched receptacles supplied froth general-purpose 1 5 ampere branch circuits rare permitted to be located in kitchens, pantries, breakfast rooms, and similar areas.*

*Exception No. 2: The receptacle outlet for refrigeration equipment may be served by an individual 15-ampere or larger branch circuit, or it may be included in the 20-ampere small-appliance branch circuit Refrigeration equipment is also exempted from the GFCI requirements.*

2. The two or more small-appliance branch circuits specified above shall have no other outlets.

*Exception No 1: A receptacle installed solely for the electrical supply to and support of an electric clock in any of the rooms specified above.*

*Exception No 2: Receptacles installed to provide power for supplemental equipment and lighting on gas-fired ranges, ovens, or counter-mounted cooking units.*

3. Additional small-appliance branch circuits shall be permitted to supply receptacle outlets in the kitchen and other rooms specified above. No small-appliance branch circuit shall serve more than one kitchen.

#### Countertops

1. Wall Counter Spaces A receptacle outlet shall be Installed at each wall counter space that is 12 inches or wider. Receptacle outlets shall be installed so that no point along the wall line is more than 24 inches measured horizontally from a receptacle outlet in that space.

*Exception: Receptacle outlets shall not be required on a wall directly behind a range or sink.*

2. Island Counter Spaces At least one receptacle shall be installed at each island counter space with a long dimension of 24 inches or greater and a short dimension of 12 inches or greater Where a rangetop or sink is installed in an island counter and the width of the counter behind the rangetop or sink is less than 12 inches the rangetop or sink is considered to divide the island into two separate countertop spaces.

3. Peninsular Counter Spaces At least one receptacle outlet shall be installed at each peninsular counter space with a long dimension of 24 inches or greater and a short dimension of 12 inches or greater. A peninsular countertop is measured from the connecting edge.



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4. Separate Spaces. Countertop spaces separated by rangetops, refrigerators, or sinks shall be considered as separate countertop spaces in applying the requirements above.
5. Receptacle Outlet Location Receptacle outlets shall be located above, but not more than 20 inches above the countertop. Receptacle outlets rendered not readily accessible by appliances fastened in place appliance garages sinks rangetops or appliances occupying dedicated space shall not be considered as these required outlets.

*Exception: To comply with the conditions specified in 1 or 2 receptacle outlets shall be permitted to be mounted not more than 12 inches below the countertop Receptacles mounted below a countertop in accordance with this exception shall not be located where the countertop extends more than 6 inches beyond its support base.*

- a. Construction for the physically impaired.
  - b. On island and peninsular countertops where the countertop is flat across its entire surface (no backsplashes dividers etc.) and there are no means to mount a receptacle within 20 inches above the countertop, such as an overhead cabinet.
6. All outlet receptacles installed in kitchen serving the countertop surfaces shall have ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel.



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