

HEART OF THE HOME

Kitchens and bathrooms are two of the most important rooms in your home.

You might not judge a book by its cover but many people judge a home by its kitchen and bathrooms.

Morcraft Homes director Steve Morcombe says kitchens and bathrooms are two of the highest-cost areas when building a home and for good reason.

They are the areas with the most appliances, fittings, features and extra attention needs to be paid to details like waterproofing.

"Getting these two areas right is important for functionality, ease-of-use, liveability and visual

impact," Morcombe says.

He suggests anyone building a home take some extra time to think about the flexibility of a kitchen space, how much time they will spend in it and how it will be used before settling on a design.

"One of the biggest mistakes with a kitchen is having it too cramped or having a design that makes it hard to access the most-used areas," he says.

Visualise yourself in the space and how you will use it and pay attention to small details.

If someone is making school lunches is there room for another person to be making breakfast at the same time? And if you have the pantry open are you able to open the fridge door?

"It is the little things that can make a kitchen more functional and enjoyable to use," he says.

But not every kitchen needs the same features.

"The type of life you lead may be reflected in the type of appliances you need."

If you are a keen cook and a big entertainer you might consider the higher end ovens and stoves whereas someone who eats out a lot or is away often might focus more on having an easily accessible microwave.

Storage is another important consideration and Morcombe says there are many options like pot drawers or cupboards that can be accessed from both sides that maximise storage options

and make cupboards easier to use.

The biggest consideration with bathrooms, as a builder, is making sure they are properly wet-sealed.

"Your house is likely to be your biggest asset and protecting it from moisture damage is a small thing that can save you financial pain in years to come," he says.

Making sure the showers, including any tiled recesses, wall-to-floor joins and pipe penetrations are fully wet-sealed from the beginning, will give you peace of mind in the future.

Flexibility should also be considered in the bathroom. If you have children or teenagers, how many will be using the bathroom, is there adequate storage for all their bathroom necessities and is the space easy to use?

"Getting these two areas right from the start can make your home more liveable and add to its overall value in years to come."

CHOOSING A BUILDER



- All your kitchen and bathroom cupboards are laminate inside and out
- High moisture-resistant board is used in your kitchen cupboards
- Your kitchen is big enough for more than one person to work in
- The kitchen layout enables easy movement between the stove, fridge, sink and preparation areas
- Your showers, wall-to-floor joins and toilets are fully wet-sealed
- Any tiled recesses in the shower are waterproofed

Finishing touches

Choosing the right paints and renders will ensure your home is easy to maintain in years to come. Check back next fortnight to learn about the importance of adding the right finishing touches.

Kitchens Built Right.

From the start

Director Steve Morcombe has over 30 years home building industry experience in Queensland and has a thirst for doing it right.

Morcraft Homes 'kitchens are built right' with a flexible layout to suit your needs. Choose either a Westinghouse or Technika fan forced oven, glass cooktop and slideaway rangehood. With high moisture resistant board, your kitchen will be built right.

Steve
STEVE MORCOMBE

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BUILT RIGHT. FROM THE START

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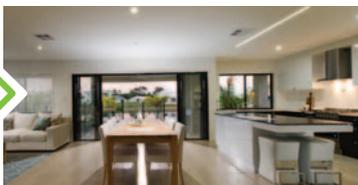
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