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Lighten Up: How to Get Perfect Kitchen Illumination

The kitchen is the hub of the home for everything from cooking and eating to homework and entertaining. So at T&K, we think it's especially important to install lighting that not only shows your kitchen at its best, but also helps you get things done. You'll find the most welcoming and functional kitchens use layered lighting to achieve the best results:

Task lighting allows you to see clearly while preparing food, using the sink, working in your desk area, or reading the newspaper at the table:

Mini pendant lights: These are a good choice for when you need extra light, but don't want to sacrifice style. These can be placed over a counter top, kitchen island or breakfast bar. These range in style from basic to decorative art glass.

Cabinet lights: These come in the form of fluorescent tubes, rectangular light boxes, or puck-style lights with halogen or xenon bulbs. They help brighten dark areas under your cabinets and in other shaded areas of your kitchen. Be sure to install these lights towards the front edge of your cabinets so the light shines down onto the center of your counter.

Individual recessed lights: These are perfect for specific areas that need extra light such as over your sink or desk area.





Ambient Lighting is soft, indirect light from a window, skylight or ceiling fixture. It helps you complete general tasks during the day, guides you at night, and ensures you get the highest level of visual impact from your cabinets, countertops and appliances. Options for ambient lighting include:

Recessed lights with or without energy-efficient compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs)

Semi-flush mounted ceiling fixtures or **perimeter lighting** that provides indirect illumination by bouncing light off the ceiling and walls

Decorative chandeliers that reflect your taste and style

Since ambient lighting sets the mood of your kitchen, you'll want to install a dimmer switch so you can easily control the amount of light – perhaps soft and dim for a romantic dinner for two, or bright for a large, happy gathering.

Accent Lighting gives your kitchen even more dimension, and usually highlights special home objects that you want people to notice such as art or a custom architectural feature. Decorative strips can also be used to give the illusion of a higher ceiling.

So if your kitchen isn't all it can be, call T&K at (732) 625-9885 or go to our [website](#). We can help you with everything from kitchen layout and design to cabinetry to counters to lighting. You're sure to see your kitchen in a whole new light!



Images courtesy of Kichler Lighting

**Home Maintenance Tip:
Extra Care for Your Home's Exterior**

Summer is a great time to check for and repair the exterior of your home. Homeowners with a brick exterior should look for cracks that are wider than 1/16 inch and seal them with a clear silicone sealant. Those with vinyl or aluminum siding should check loose or open seams and repair them to protect against wind and rain damage. If you have wood siding, scrape and repaint peeling areas.

This gift coupon brought to you compliments of T&K Contractors, Inc.

2 Unique Places to Dine

From the Great Restaurants Family • www.greatrestaurantsnj.com

Metropolitan Cafe

Bar & Grill
8 E. Main Street, Freehold, NJ
732-780-9400

Nonna's Italian Feast

Bakery - Restaurant - Bar
190 Route 9 N, Marlboro, NJ
732-536-9050

\$20 Gift Certificate

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See you next month!

Anthony & Sal