

“Kitchen Sink” Galley Checklist

by Kathy Parsons

Here is a “kitchen sink” list of considerations in planning the galley aboard your boat. Use this list as you:

- think about what you want in your galley (and what you don't want...)
- evaluate the galley in boats you are considering buying
- plan modifications and outfitting of the galley and eating areas

Please don't think that the perfect galley has everything on this list - these are just all the **options**. If you read the advice of the 18 women in the Galley project, you will learn that **simple is often best**, and many appliances and gadgets don't earn their space aboard.

1 Layout

- Is the galley **u-shaped** or **alongside/bench**? Can you wedge yourself in to work in rough conditions?

2 Location

- Is the galley a **dedicated space** or does it also provide access to the engine compartment or aft cabin? Can you cook in the galley while an engine room maintenance project is underway?
- Is the **galley up or down** (relevant to catamarans and powerboats with multiple levels)?
- Does the galley share a wall with the **engine room** (may get HOT when engine is run)?
- Is the galley **near the cockpit** or is there a way to pass food and drinks through to the cockpit easily?
- Can you **move safely** from the galley to the cockpit underway?

3 Ventilation

- Is there good **air flow** through the galley, including when underway or when it's raining?
- Are there **dorades** or **vents** that exhaust galley air?
- Are there **opening ports** or **hatches** in the galley?
- Do you have one or more conveniently-located **fans** or can you add one, either permanently or temporarily?

4 Counters

- How much **counter space** do you have? Does it double as a lid for the fridge, freezer, or storage locker?
- What is the **counter top** made of? Is it easy to clean? Can you place a hot pot on it?
- Do you have a **fold-down counter** (or could you make one) to provide extra counter space when needed?
- Do counters have **fiddles** on the edges so that dishes don't fall off underway or in rough conditions?
- Do you have a good **cutting board** (could be built-in or a sink insert)?

5 Storage space

- How much storage area do you have **in the galley** for your dishes, cooking staples and cookware (drawers, shelves, cabinets, lockers?) -- The kinds of dishes and cookware that you use affect the storage spaces you will need and vice versa.
- How much usable space do you have **near the galley** for storing provisions and less-used cookware?
- Where will you store your **spices, cookware, cooking appliances, glass wine glasses** if you choose to have them?
- Can you get into your primary food lockers **under way** without everything falling out?

6 **Stove & oven**

- How many **burners** does the stove have?
- Does the stove have an **oven** and/or **broiler**? Is the oven large enough to bake bread or a small turkey?
- Is the stove **gimbaled** so that you can operate it underway at a heel? Does it swing freely on its gimbals?
- Does the stove have moveable **brackets** to hold pots and pans in place?

7 **Stove fuel**

- What **fuel** does the stove use (propane, kerosene, alcohol, CNG, electric)?
- Is there a **shut-off solenoid** for the propane to the galley?
- How much **propane** can you carry? Is there a good propane locker?
- Do you have the type of **regulators** that may be required internationally?
- Do you have the **adapters** needed to fill your propane tanks in other countries?

8 **Sinks**

- How many **sinks** do you have? Are they **large** enough, **deep** enough, and appropriately **shaped** for your largest pots?
- Where is the sink located relative to the **waterline**? Will the sinks backfill or gurgle when the boat is heeled?
- Do you have **headroom** over the sink so that you can comfortably wash dishes? (Oddly, some boatmakers have placed a cabinet over the galley sink so that you can't lean over it!)

9 **Faucets**

- Are your water faucets **pressure-driven** (using an electric pump)?
- If so, do you have a **manual hand or foot pump** as a backup in case the pump fails?
- Do you have a **salt-water faucet** in the galley (foot or hand pump or pressure-driven)?
- Does your faucet have one or two **handles** (eg a mixing handle for hot/cold water can be quickly turned on/off with one hand saving water)?
- Does your faucet have a **spray hose** and **nozzle**?

10 **Water system**

- How much **water** can you carry? How many **tanks** do you have?
- Do you have a **hot water heater**? Is it 110volt, propane?
- Is your **hot water heater plumbed into the engine cooling system** so that running the engine heats the hot water heater?
- Do you have a **watermaker**?
- Do you have **filters** between your tanks and galley faucet (or connected to the faucet)?

11 **Lighting**

- Do you have good **lighting to work in the galley**?
- Do you have suitable **lighting for eating dinner in the cockpit**?

12 Refrigeration

- Do you have a **fridge**?
- Do you have a **freezer**?
- If you have both, are they **separate boxes** or combined in one unit? (Separate boxes can provide some redundancy if one fridge breaks down.)
- Are the boxes **well-insulated**? Is the top insulated? Can more insulation be added if needed?
- Are they **top-opening and/or front-opening**?
- How **large** are the boxes? Can you **reach the bottom** of the boxes? Especially with top-loading boxes, can you organize them with bins or shelves to **get to items easily**?
- Can you easily open the fridge and get things out of it while **underway in rough weather**? If front opening, can you open it when the boat is heeled (monohulls) without everything falling out? (eg Is there a lip to hold items on the shelves? Does the door open forward/aft or to port/starboard?)
- How are the fridge and/or freezer **powered**? They may be DC (12 or 24 volt) or AC (110 or 240 volt), engine-driven, or run on propane.
- What kind of **cooling** does the fridge/freezer use (sea water pump, keel cooler, air)? Can you operate the system when the boat is out of the water?
- Can you leave the fridge/freezer **running unattended** for several days while you are away?
- Can you make **ice**? Can you keep ice? Can you keep ice cream frozen?
- How much **power** do the fridge/freezer draw? Will you have to run the engine or generator daily to keep up?
- Do you have a **thermometer** with a display mounted outside the box so that you can easily monitor the temperature without opening the box?

13 Electrical

- What **electric appliances** will you use? Are they DC (12 or 24 volt) or AC (110 volt or 240 volt)?
- Do you have a **microwave**?
- How many **amps** do your AC electric appliances draw? Will you power them with an inverter, generator, or only use them at the dock?
- How do you generate electricity? Do you have an **inverter, generator, solar panels, wind generator**?

14 Safety

- Do you have a **safety strap** to hold you in place in rough conditions?
- Do you have or need a **safety bar** to keep you from falling into the stove in rough conditions?
- Do you have a way to put out a **galley fire** (fire extinguisher and fire blanket)? In the event of a galley fire, can you get to the fire extinguisher from the galley and from outside the galley?
- Can you safely **get out of the galley** if you had a flare-up at the stove?
- Do you have well-placed **hand-holds** in the galley and between the galley and cockpit?

15 Eating area

- Where will you be eating your meals? Do you have a good usable **dinner table** and seating? How many guests can you have to dinner – does the table expand for dinner parties?
- Do you have a good usable, easy-to-set-up **cockpit table** so that you can eat meals in the cockpit? How many people can you comfortably seat in the cockpit for dinner or happy hour?