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# Safer Home Fact Kit

## Selecting Products for Your Kitchen

Are you looking for a new cookware set or thinking about renovating your kitchen? Choosing the right products for your kitchen can be a daunting task. With so many products and so many companies making claims about product safety today, how do you know which products to purchase?

### Choosing the Right Work Surface

Kitchen remodeling is probably one of the most popular do-it-yourself projects for homeowners today. When replacing a countertop, most families want their countertop to be not just functional, but fashionable as well. From laminate and solid surfaces to engineered stone, the choices are endless today. Protect the health and safety of your family by asking the manufacturer if their product is certified to NSF/ANSI 51 or NSF P224. Certification to these standards helps confirm whether the material is truly suitable for use in a kitchen where there may be direct or indirect contact with food.

### Choosing the Right Appliance

While cost and appearance are usually the biggest considerations for most consumers, don't forget about performance when selecting appliances. Can that dishwasher really sanitize dishes? Or, will that refrigerator/freezer be able to store food at the proper temperature to prevent problems with food-borne bacteria? Fortunately, there are voluntary national standards being developed to help ensure products meet minimum performance guidelines, such as NSF/ANSI 184 for residential dishwashers.

### Other Kitchen Products

In addition to kitchen appliances, there can be public health issues associated with many other products we use in our kitchens every day, including cookware, food storage containers and even thermometers. While the products used in restaurants are required to be produced from materials that meet minimum public health guidelines, the same isn't true for products sold only to consumers.

No matter what type of product you are seeking for your kitchen, give yourself piece of mind and look to see that the equipment and materials in your kitchen are certified.



*Look for the NSF mark when purchasing kitchen appliances.*