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REAL ESTATE

Shopping for Kitchen Faucets

Shopping Guide

By TIM McKEOUGH SEPT. 11, 2017



Compared with towering refrigerators and commercial-style ranges, a faucet may seem like a minor component in a kitchen. But it has an outsized effect on the overall look — and function — of the space.

“It’s usually front and center, so it’s absolutely a big element of a kitchen’s design,” said [Paris Forino](#), a New York-based interior designer whose projects include condominiums like [Steiner East Village](#) and [50 Clinton Street](#) in Manhattan. “There are some clunky, bulbous products out there, but I prefer something that’s slim and elegant.”

And it’s important to see a faucet you’re considering in person, because not every brass, nickel or oil-rubbed bronze finish looks the same — a difference, she said, that “can make it look absolutely chic or completely gaudy.”

Then there are the practical considerations. Faucets with separate controls for cold and hot water, she said, “look beautiful when you’re doing a more traditional-style kitchen.” Just remember, she added, that they may not be as convenient as one with a single control lever, especially if you’re a harried chef.

- How big should it be? “Consider clearance height, so if you have a really tall vase you can fill it up,” Ms. Forino said. But don’t overdo it: “There are a lot of huge faucets that would look out of scale in a petite New York City apartment.”

- Do you need a spray? “You can have a separate hand spray or one that comes out of the actual spout, which is really practical and nice,” Ms. Forino said.

- Lacquered or not? “I love unlacquered brass, because it gets a beautiful patina, but a lot of people may not like it because they think it starts to look dirty,” she said. “It’s a personal preference.”



Kraus Oletto

Single-handle commercial-style faucet with dual-function spray head |
From about \$180 at Lowe's: 800-891-8035 or [lowes.com](https://www.lowes.com)



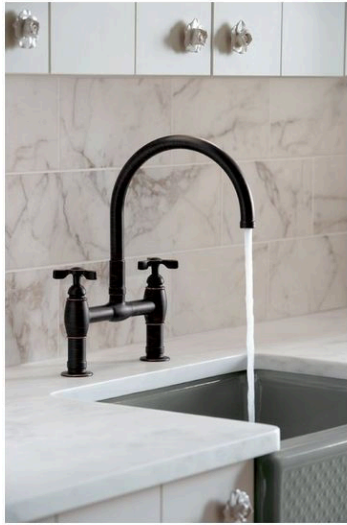
Blanco Linus

Single-lever faucet with pullout spray head | From about \$208 at QualityBath: 800-554-3210 or qualitybath.com



Axor Citterio

Single-handle one-spray faucet by Antonio Citterio | From about \$400 at Wayfair: 866-263-8325 or wayfair.com



Kohler Parq

Bridge faucet with separate handles for hot and cold | From about \$634 at
Build: 800-375-3403 or [build.com](https://www.build.com)



California Faucets Culinary

Faucet with pullout dual-function spray head and blade lever | From about
\$734 at eFaucets: 888-991-8312 or [efaucets.com](https://www.efaucets.com)