

Building Regulations require a minimum 40 mm trap with 75 mm depth of seal for sinks. In practice it is best for all sink wastes to be fitted with *bottle traps* so that blockages and lost jewellery can be more easily removed, but note that waste disposers must NOT be fitted to a bottle trap. See p. 95.

A good feature found in some adjacent sinks is a slight indent in the dividing wall between the sinks which will divert water overflowing from one full bowl into the other.

Beware 'universal' configuration of sink and draining boards. These are sink units which have a tap hole punched in both sides of the unit, allowing the unit to be handed as required. This results in the unused tap hole being filled with a blank, causing an obstruction around which dirt will collect. More expensive ranges have the option of RH or LH drainers which avoid this problem.

Sink accessories

Sinks are often supplied with optional *accessories* such as:

mixer tap

plumbing set, i.e. wastes, linking pipework and trap

drainer basket

draining trays

strainer bowl – a colander generally for smaller sink

chopping board – hardwood, to fit larger bowl

Some or all of these may be included in the package price. Check that the mixer, in particular, is the model required and whether the client needs the accessories and will have enough cupboard space to store them.

Stainless steel sinks

Stainless steel is still the prime choice for kitchen sinks.

It is virtually indestructible, rustless, seamless and non-porous, so is hygienic and continues to look good after many years of hard use. The resilient properties of the sheet material soften impact blows.

The only products known to dull the metal are very strong bleaches and silver dipping liquid.

The recommended composition of the material is:

18/8 nickel/chrome content (18/10 is better) to BS 1449 Part 2 and Euronorm 88.71, grade 304 with thicknesses ranging from 0.9 to 1.5 mm.

The underside of bowls should be applied with sound-deadening panels or a material such as bituminous rubber compound to minimise drumming.

In hard water areas, limescale spots will show up on stainless steel. These cause no harm and can be removed easily with vinegar or proprietary limescale removing liquids.

The finish is usually polished but, at slight extra cost, linen, brushed and satin finishes are available for the surrounds and draining boards. These will help to disguise limescale spotting and fine scratches, although the normal polished finish will acquire a 'brushed' look in time anyway so these finishes are somewhat questionable.

Stainless steel sink bowls can also be welded on to *stainless steel worktops*. See p. 166.

Stainless steel sinks are available in many configurations:

single round bowl	inset or undermounted
single rectangular bowl	inset or undermounted
double rectangular bowls	inset or undermounted
single bowl with drainer(s)	inset or sit-on
double bowls with drainer(s)	inset or sit-on
corner bowl(s) with drainer(s)	inset