Open Plan Spacing Cheat Sheet

Zone your long kitchen and living room for perfect flow.

Master your rectangular room layout and get every clearance right. Apply these exact measurements to ensure comfortable function without bottlenecking daily traffic.



Key Clearances

36 in
straight walkway along one side

42-48 in
kitchen aisles for appliance operation

18 in
reach distance to coffee table

36 in
push-back clearance behind dining chairs

24 in
minimum linear counter width per stool

10-12 in
knee clearance beneath island countertop

Unify with Continuous Flooring

Run wood planks parallel to the longest wall. This naturally expands the footprint and creates a cohesive, connected base before you arrange any furniture.

Positioning Your Room Divider

1. **Find the center** Measure total room length to find the logical center dividing line.
2. **Place the back** Float the sofa backing the kitchen exactly on this invisible boundary.
3. **Align with island** Center the sofa back directly in line with the kitchen island for symmetry.
4. **Anchor the rug** Stop the rug at the walkway and anchor front sofa legs on it.

What to Check On Site

- [ ] Tape out the straight walkway to verify unobstructed traffic flow.
- [ ] Physically mimic opening dishwasher and oven doors in the taped-out aisles.
- [ ] Check that sightlines remain completely open across the top of sofa cushions.
- [ ] Position the screen carefully to avoid harsh glare from kitchen windows.

TV Distance Guide

Find your row: **Screen Size**

Screen Size	Your pick	Why
55 inches	7 feet minimum	Mount 42 inches on center
65 inches	8.5 feet minimum	Mount 42 inches on center
75 inches	10 feet minimum	Mount 42 inches on center

Project Notes

Enjoy a beautifully zoned rectangular room that feels spacious and functions perfectly.