

Small Pantry Measurement & Organization Checklist

For pantries roughly 2-6 ft (60-180 cm) wide - or a single kitchen cupboard. About 10 minutes at the shelf.

1. Measure every shelf first

Write the numbers down. Do not trust product photos - shelf depth is the measurement everyone skips and everything depends on.

Shelf (top to bottom)	Width	Depth	Height to shelf above
Shelf 1 (top)			
Shelf 2			
Shelf 3			
Shelf 4			
Shelf 5 (bottom)			

☐ Tallest items you store now (oil bottles, cereal boxes): measure the two tallest.

☐ Door swing or pull-out clearance, if your pantry has doors.

2. Container-fit checklist - run before any purchase

- ☐ Container depth is 1-2 in (2.5-5 cm) less than shelf depth, so you can grab the front edge.
- ☐ Container height fits the shelf height with finger room on top.
- ☐ You can see or reach the back row without moving the front row.
- ☐ Lids, scoops and handles still work inside the shelf space, not just on the counter.

3. Declutter prompts (be honest)

- ☐ Expired or stale items out - check dates, not intentions.
- ☐ Duplicates: keep the opened one + one back-up; the rest goes to back-stock or out.
- ☐ Things you bought for a recipe you never made: donate or use this week.
- ☐ Appliances and gadgets that live in the pantry but belong elsewhere: relocate.

4. Plan your 7 zones

Daily (eye level) - Cooking - Baking - Snacks - Back-stock (top shelf) - Small & loose - Flex (half a shelf, deliberately empty). Sketch which zone goes on which shelf before you move anything:

- ☐ Shelf 1: _____
- ☐ Shelf 2: _____
- ☐ Shelf 3: _____
- ☐ Shelf 4: _____
- ☐ Shelf 5: _____

5. Shopping list - measurement first, product second

Item to buy	Deciding measurement	Max size that fits

Full guide: How to Organize a Small Pantry in 7 Zones - staystidy.com/kitchen-pantry/