

"I like the view from my kitchen window: my vegetables and herbs growing in the summer, the leaves turning beautiful colors in the fall, and pretty winters when I'm warm inside. But most of all, I enjoy watching my husband play with our two sons."

PEGGY CAWLEY  
Rocky River, Ohio



THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

## what do you love most about your kitchen?

June Cleaver. Carol Brady. Clair Huxtable. Depending on your age, your fantasy kitchen probably belonged to one of these TV superwomen. Through family high jinks, perfect pancakes, and heartfelt discussions, these kitchens never had a ragged dish towel or a crusty pan in sight (thanks, Alice!), and everyone was happy. Whether their own kitchens are camera-ready or in need of a little TLC, *Real Simple* readers share what they love most about them.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY KATE SEARS

### soul food

**My cookbooks are like diaries.** At the top of each recipe page, I write the date on which I tried the recipe, how it turned out ("Good to make for the in-laws"), how I substituted ingredients ("Ran out of lime juice—used lemon. It worked fine"), and what I would like to do differently the next time ("Add more salsa"). I also include a line or two about what's going on in my life at the time ("This is our anniversary dinner"). Each recipe becomes a snapshot of my life.

HEIDI BOODY  
Florence, Massachusetts

I love my kitchen because **I became a cook here.** Before I moved into this house, I broiled cookies, burned toast, and was known to my friends as the "fire starter." But then I fell in love, moved into a cute little house, got married, and planted a garden. All at once, I was standing in my kitchen with baskets full of