2026 Kitchen & Home Essentials Session

Education & EPPS Programs

ECRM's educational sessions provide EPPS attendees with the opportunity to learn from thought leaders and category experts on a variety of topics aimed at their professional development. These sessions include presentations, moderated panel discussions, special events, workshops, and roundtable discussions focused on category insights and trends, as well as hands-on workshops to help buyers and sellers enhance the effectiveness of their meetings during an EPPS.

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Roundtables

45 minutes

Tuesday, September 15th | 5:00 PM - 5:45 PM

This is a great networking event, giving participants the opportunity to discuss relevant industry topics in a roundtable format with fellow industry professionals. Over the 45 minutes, participants can choose a table with an assigned topic to discuss. After 20 minutes, we will pause and ask everyone to switch to a second table topic.

*****If you are interested in moderating, please contact Sarah Davidson sdavidson@ecrm.marketgate.com**

Consumers: Moderated by Andrew Allen, Grace Management Group

- What shifts in consumer behavior are having the biggest impact on the housewares category today?
- What emerging lifestyle trends should retailers and suppliers prepare for over the next 2–3 years?
- How are consumers defining "value" in today's market?

AI:

- How is AI changing product development, forecasting, or merchandising?
- Where do buyers see the greatest opportunity for automation?

Private Label vs. National Brands: Moderated by Charlotte Krath, F&H of Scandinavia A/S, and Sebastian Schyberg, Sebnini Trading Ltd

- Where are retailers investing in private label?
- When do emerging brands have the greatest opportunity?
- What gaps still exist in the market?

E-Commerce: Moderated by Gerald Cook, Yamazaki Home

- How has your online assortment strategy evolved over the past year, and what types of products are performing best online?
- How do you evaluate whether a new product is a good fit for your digital assortment?
- What role does marketplace or drop-ship play in your growth strategy?

Holiday & Entertaining Trends: Moderated by Lorraine Maberry, H&H Asia ltd

- What holiday traditions or entertaining trends are driving demand in Home & Living?
- How are consumers preparing differently for holiday gatherings compared to previous years?
- Which seasonal categories are seeing the most growth, and where do you see untapped opportunities?
- Are consumers shopping earlier, looking for more versatile products, or prioritizing value over premium offerings?

What's Trending vs. What's Fading: Moderated by Janette McGinness, Briarwood Lane

- Which trends are retailers excited about for 2026 and early 2027?
- Which trends became oversaturated?
- What are retailers actively looking to add to their assortment?