



KITCHEN PLANNER

From inspiration to installation



10 STEPS TO YOUR NEW KITCHEN

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM YOUR KITCHEN?

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT...?

WHAT'S YOUR NEW LOOK?

FIGURING OUT YOUR BUDGET

FINDING THE PERFECT PRO

FINALIZING THE DETAILS

THE PAIN-FREE PROCESS



10 Steps To Your New Kitchen

Watching decorating shows on TV is exciting and full of inspiration, but designing your dream kitchen in real life is a journey with more steps than you might expect.

From the first spark of an idea to the final reveal, every detail matters. To help you navigate the process smoothly, we've broken it down into eight essential steps.

Get ready to bring your vision to life—step by step, we'll show you how to create a kitchen that's as stunning as it is functional!



Find Your Why

Before diving into a kitchen remodel, take a step back and ask yourself:
Why are we doing this?

Getting clear on your motivation—and making sure everyone involved is on the same page—will help guide every decision, from layout to finishes.

Are you craving more space for cooking and entertaining? Tired of outdated cabinets and colors that scream 1980s?

Frustrated by a layout that just doesn't work? Whether it's about function, style, or increasing your home's value, defining your "why" ensures your remodel stays focused and delivers the dream kitchen you've envisioned.



2. Assess your needs

What are your main objectives? Your priorities will drive all further decisions on budget, style, products and more. So give this step some time and talk it through with your family.

4. Find A Pro

Choosing an experienced and qualified kitchen remodeling contractor ensures your project is completed on time, within budget, and to the highest standards.

A skilled professional brings expertise, problem-solving abilities, and industry connections that can save you time, money, and stress.



5. Figure Out The Layout

Your remodeling professional may have several ideas on how you can best use your space, each with different budget implications.

This is also where different idea websites come into play for ideas about reimagining the space.

Make notes on how you use your space, where the current roadblocks are, and what you wish worked better, and any must haves for appliances or storage elements.



2. What's Life Look Like?

What are your main objectives? Your priorities will drive all further decisions on budget, style, products and more. So give this step some time and talk it through with your family.

You can use the “A Day In The Life of Your Kitchen” template to help you figure this out and you might be surprised at what you discover!



3. Figure Out A Budget

Set a smart budget for your dream kitchen! Start by determining how much you can comfortably invest and explore your financing options.

As you shop around, take note of product prices to get a realistic sense of costs. And don't forget—installation alone can account for about 20% of your total budget.

Planning ahead ensures you get the style and quality you love without any financial surprises!



6. Find Your Look

Start by gathering inspiration from home design magazines, Pinterest, and remodeling websites to identify styles and features you love.

Visit showrooms, model homes, or even friends' kitchens to see materials and layouts in person.

Creating a vision board or collecting sample materials can help you refine your style and communicate your dream kitchen to your contractor.



7. Choose Products

From faucets to appliances, the possibilities are endless, but a budget typically isn't.

Check out showrooms and websites for inspiration, but also connect with your contractor, as they often have both industry connections and can get products at wholesale or even further discounts.

Find the looks and features you want, then you can often find "just like" products that may be more budget friendly than the \$30,000 tub that looks amazing.



8. Plan For Installation

Consider how involved you will be in finding and supervising the electricians, plumbers, tile contractors, carpenters, cabinet installers and all the other trades involved with a new kitchen.

Also, plan for a substitute kitchen while yours is under construction.



9. Plan for Contingency

Unexpected surprises are part of any kitchen remodel, so planning for contingencies is a must!

Set aside a buffer—typically 10-20% of your budget—for unforeseen costs like hidden plumbing issues or material delays/replacements.

To keep stress levels low, decide in advance on temporary solutions, like keeping that mini kitchen with a microwave and coffee station. A little preparation now can save you major headaches later!



10. Enjoy

Test-drive everything in your new kitchen.

Keep all receipts, contracts, warranties and product information.

Understand the proper care and maintenance of all new products, then relax and enjoy your dream come true!

Keep in contact with the contractor to be able to ask questions and save on making small changes in the future.



This Isn't Your Typical 30-Minute Makeover Show—What to Expect for Your Remodeling Timeline



Home remodeling is an exciting journey, but it requires careful planning, patience, and an understanding of the timeframes involved. Unlike the lightning-fast renovations you see on TV, real-world projects require detailed coordination, material lead times, and expert craftsmanship. Here's what you need to know about setting realistic expectations for your renovation timeline.

Project Timelines: From Simple Updates to Full-Scale Transformations
The length of your remodeling project depends on its complexity:

Basic updates & cosmetic changes: If you're refreshing paint, replacing hardware, or upgrading fixtures, expect a timeline of 4 to 8 weeks.

Mid-range remodels: This includes replacing cabinets, installing new countertops, and updating lighting or plumbing fixtures. These projects typically take 2 to 5 months.

Major renovations & full kitchen remodels: A complete kitchen overhaul, which may involve layout changes, custom cabinetry, and high-end finishes, can extend to 6 to 12 months, especially if structural modifications are required.

Material & Product Ordering: A Critical Factor in Scheduling
Your material choices significantly impact the project timeline.

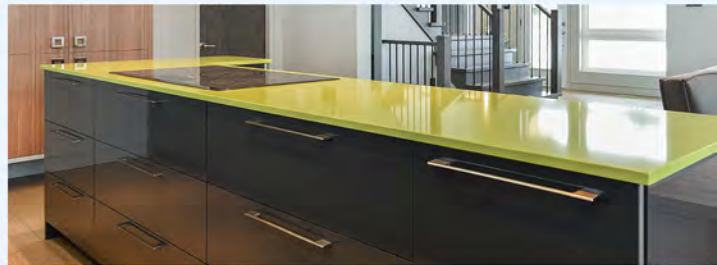
Your Remodeling Timeline Continued...

Materials Continued...

Custom cabinetry: Built-to-order cabinets require 8 to 16 weeks for manufacturing and delivery. Semi-custom options may shorten this timeframe but still require careful planning.



Countertops: Stone surfaces like quartz or granite cannot be fabricated until cabinets are installed. After installation, measuring, cutting, and finishing can add 2 to 4 weeks to the process.



High-end fixtures & appliances: Premium plumbing fixtures, custom sinks, and specialty appliances often have extended lead times of 8 to 12 weeks.



Flooring & tile: If choosing specialty or imported materials, be aware that availability and shipping times can vary. Some orders can take up to 10 weeks to arrive.



Ordering materials early and working with your remodeling team to align deliveries with the construction schedule is essential to avoid unnecessary delays.



Your Remodeling Timeline Continued...

Permit Approvals & Inspections: The Often Overlooked Time Factor

If your renovation involves structural modifications, plumbing, or electrical work, you may need:

City permits: Depending on your location, permit approvals can take several weeks to a few months.

Inspections: Many renovations require multiple inspections at different stages, such as framing, electrical, plumbing, and final completion. If any issues arise, corrections may be necessary before moving forward, adding to the timeline.

Expect the Unexpected: Hidden Surprises & Adjustments

Once demolition begins, unexpected issues may surface, such as:

Water damage or mold behind walls

Structural deficiencies, such as inadequate framing or support beams
Outdated wiring or plumbing that needs upgrading to meet current codes
These surprises can extend the timeline, but your contractor will work with you to adjust plans accordingly. Communicating any critical deadlines upfront with your contractor will help them provide a realistic timeline based on your unique project.

How to Stay on Track & Minimize Delays

Plan ahead: Choose materials early, confirm product availability, and account for ordering lead times.

Work with experienced professionals: A skilled contractor and design team can help anticipate challenges and streamline the process.

Be flexible: Some delays are inevitable, but being prepared can help you navigate them smoothly.

Maintain open communication: Regular check-ins with your remodeling team ensure everyone stays aligned on progress and expectations.

By understanding these factors, you can approach your renovation with confidence, ensuring a smoother and more enjoyable remodeling experience.

Kitchen Questions

Determining your priorities for a new kitchen—and sticking to them—will help you and your contractor make the best decisions about budget, design, layout and products. Knowing these items can help a contractor understand what you want even before you hire one.

Here's a questionnaire to get you thinking and help with contractor discussions.



Number of family members in home ____ Ages _____

How many cooks in the home? ____

How old is your home? ____

Are you staying or selling soon? ____

In the next 2 years:

Will new children be arriving? ____

Will children leave home? ____

Will adult children return home? ____

Will parents come to live? ____

Does anyone in the family have special physical needs? ____

How often do you entertain in the home? ____

Kitchen Questions

Your Goals:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Update the look | - Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Update for resale | - Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Add more space | - Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Open up the kitchen | - Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Update appliances | - Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Improve the function | - Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Improve Storage | - Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Make the kitchen a centerpiece | - Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |

Wants

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Eating area | - Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Island | - Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Walk-in pantry | - Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Home office/homework area | - Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| TV area | - Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Laundry Area | - Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Larger garbage/recycling area | - Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wine/Beverage Storage | - Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |

Three Things You Want in the New Kitchen

Three things you most dislike about the kitchen now

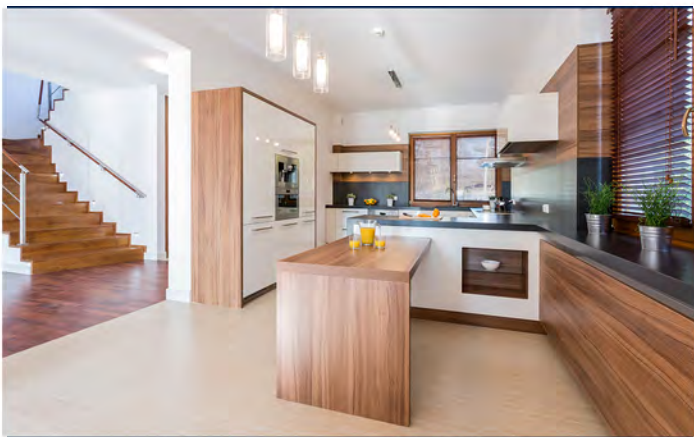


What's Your Look?

We've curated these exceptional kitchens to help you find the perfect look and be able to explain what you want to your contractor.

Review your collected inspiration, Identify what appeals to you: whether it's the palette, the finishes, a unique feature or the complete ambiance.

Being precise about your preferences helps your remodeling expert better understand and translate your vision.

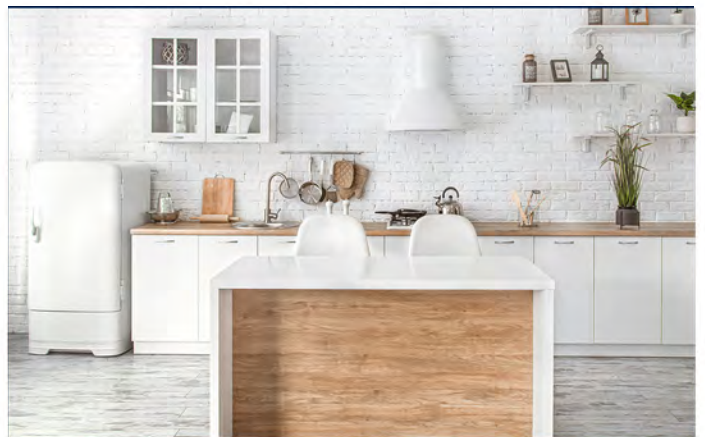


Crisp and Clean

Definitely Love ☐ Not My Style ☐

What do you like about this kitchen?

What Don't You Like?



White & Wonderful

Definitely Love ☐ Not My Style ☐

What do you like about this kitchen?

What Don't You Like?

What's Your Look?



Rich Wood

Definitely Love ☐ Not My Style ☐

What do you like about this kitchen?

What Don't You Like?



Wood & Stone

Definitely Love ☐ Not My Style ☐

What do you like about this kitchen?

What Don't You Like?



Rustic

Definitely Love ☐ Not My Style ☐

What do you like about this kitchen?

What Don't You Like?



Color Forward

Definitely Love ☐ Not My Style ☐

What do you like about this kitchen?

What Don't You Like?

Budget

What does a kitchen cost? You ultimately decide by the scope of your project, the products you select and the services you'd like.

With a wide variety of quality products available, there's a kitchen for almost any budget, ranging from the lovely to the super deluxe.

To share a few examples: a large show-stopper of a kitchen with luxurious materials in a major metro area could start at more than a hundred thousand dollars and go well beyond that.

However a lovely modest makeover in a smaller town might be achieved for around \$20,000 to \$25,000.

Tips

- Keep your priorities front and center. A \$500 range or a \$10,000 one? A \$100 sink or one that's \$3,500? A \$4 polished brass knob or a \$98 crystal model? What's important to you?
- Cabinetry and hardware generally run about 30% of your budget, appliances and ventilation can be 15% and counter tops typically account for around 10% of the total project cost.
- Remember that installation can be about 20% of the budget.
- Be sure to compare exactly the same products, not just similar ones. The price for the same model of faucet, for example, will vary by finish. Granite prices vary by grade and accent color.
- Don't move plumbing, mechanical systems or walls unless it will greatly improve the space.
- Changes made once construction begins can easily double costs, so make sure your mind is made up.

Budget Cost Areas

Where the Budget Goes...

Design Fees	4%
Installation	17%
Appliances & Ventilation	14%
Cabinetry & Hardware	29%
Countertops	10%
Lighting	5%
Flooring	7%
Doors & Windows	4%
Walls & Ceilings	4%
Faucets & Plumbing Related	5%
Other	1%



Hiring A Pro

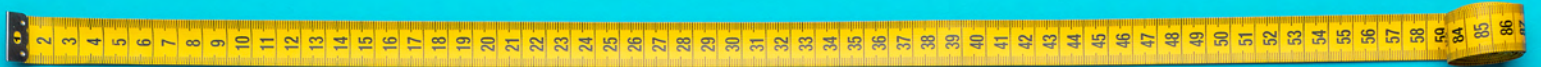
Hiring the right contractor can make or break your kitchen remodel, so don't be afraid to ask questions—lots of them!

A professional contractor brings experience, craftsmanship, and industry know-how to turn your dream kitchen into reality, but not all contractors are created equal.

Before signing on the dotted line, dig deep. How long have they been in business? Do they have a portfolio of stunning transformations? What do past clients say about their work?

The more you ask upfront, the fewer surprises you'll face down the road. A kitchen remodel is a big investment—make sure you have the right expert by your side!

Great Questions To Start Conversations...



Can you show me recent work you've completed?

Can you explain your process of how you work?

Do you typically work in the budget range I have in mind?

How do you charge and what are your milestones?

Do I work directly with you or a team?

How will you help visualize the project? Drawings, digital, 3d, etc?

Will you be responsible for all material and products?

Do you move structure like walls?

What warranty do you offer for work?

How do you handle installation (subs, staff, etc)?

May I see your license, etc.

How long do you think my project will take?

Can i have references of past customers?

Kitchen Elements

Here are some of the elements in a kitchen you may want to take a look at. Having a better idea of what you want can help you focus plans with a contractor and set budget expectations.



Cabinets

Door material
(wood, metal,
laminate, etc.)

- Style/Finish
- Hardware
- Interior storage aids (pull outs, roll outs, lazy Susans, spice racks, trash cans, drawer dividers, etc.)



Cooking/ Appliances

Separate cooktop
and oven(s) or all
one unit

- Range top: gas, electric, halogen, induction
- Oven: convection, gas, electric, single, double, under counter, wall
- Specialty: high BTU burner, simmer burner, wok, griddle, grill, steam, deep fryer, French plaque, coffee maker/espresso machine, warming drawer
- Microwave: combination convection, combination vent, built-in or drawer model
- Ventilation: downdraft or hood



Cooling/ Appliances

- Built-in, free standing, drawers
- Side-by-side, French door, top freezer, bottom freezer, under counter
- Through the door ice and water, separate ice maker
- Wine refrigeration, tall or under counter

Kitchen Elements



Clean-Up

- One or two dishwashers
- Full size, oversize or compact
- Trash compactor
- Laundry: washer, dryer, stacked
- Front or top loading



Lighting

- Ambient
- Under cabinet
- Task
- In-cabinet
- Fluorescent, incandescent, LED, xenon, halogen



Fixtures

- One or two sinks
- Single, double or triple bowl
- Undermount, integral, self rimming
- Enamel/cast iron, solid surface, stainless, quartz
- Baskets, cutting boards, drainer racks
- Soap and lotion dispensers, side spray
- Strainer basket
- Faucets: single or double-handle, pull-out, pot-filler
- Instant-hot water
- Water purification



Counters

- Granite, marble, other stone (soap stone, etc)
- Wood
- Quartz and solid surface
- Ceramic tile
- Laminate
- Lavastone
- Concrete
- Edge treatment
- Back splash material



Flooring

- Wood
- Tile
- Vinyl
- Laminate
- Stone
- Bamboo
- Cork

How will it come together?

While it may not be fun having your kitchen torn out and your household disrupted, proper planning can alleviate some of the stress. Get a jump start with our checklists here.

Know...

Where will products go before installation? In the garage? On a porch? Living room or dining room?

How will they be delivered? A back door into the kitchen? Or through the rest of the house?

How will your old kitchen be removed?

Where will you put a dumpster if needed?

What hours will the crew be in your home?

Who do you talk to if you believe there's a problem? The crew or someone else?

What happens if I want to make a change after the project starts? Whom do you contact?

Remember...

Ask for a written schedule

State your preferences about music, smoking and eating on the premises

Prepare an alternate kitchen, such as by placing a microwave and small fridge near a bathroom sink

Keep pets and children out of the work area Close off the rest of the house as much as possible

Remove artwork on walls adjoining the kitchen, since hammering can jar them

Communicate in advance with neighbors so they know what to expect

Be accessible... let the crew or general contractor know how to reach you

Stay On Track...

Have products you supply on hand before work begins (remember there can be long lead times)

Don't substitute a product without telling your designer or contractor (even small changes can have a big impact)

Keep any changes to a minimum after construction starts

