



PLANNING FOR YOUR KITCHEN REMODEL

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There's a lot to think about when creating your new custom kitchen. Ideas can be simple or complex, expensive or budget conscious. No matter the scope of your project, it's important that you enlist the help of a professional—either an experienced kitchen designer or a contractor with kitchen remodeling expertise. Not only can these professionals advise you on the practicality of your ideas, they can also ensure that the local building codes are properly incorporated into the design.



So, before you start tearing up your kitchen, consider these important factors.

Planning the Space

Before you begin the project, map out and plan the work you would like to have done. Collect photos of kitchens, features and materials that you like from web resources such as Houzz, Pinterest or home design magazines. Decide on the color palette or theme and include the many little ideas to start off with. This will give the professionals more to work with and provide a better chance of turning your ideas into realities.

A remodel can be anything from updating kitchen cabinets and appliances to knocking down walls for expansion. Consider the locations of any gas, electric or water sources if you plan on moving sinks or appliances. Also, design your kitchen with functionality in mind. Arrange kitchen cabinets, islands, sinks, ovens and other appliances in places that will complement the way you and your family use your kitchen.

Budgeting

After you have an idea of what aspects of the kitchen you want to change, decide how much you are willing to invest in remodeling your kitchen. Your kitchen design professional can help you put realistic numbers on your expectations. Once you have a budget, try your best to stick to it and carefully monitor purchases throughout the process.

It's also a good idea to budget for any unexpected expenses that may arise. For example, you want to incorporate a feature that wasn't part of the original plan but you have your heart set on it. Or, an unforeseen expense comes up after the tear-out begins, like having to replace electrical wiring or plumbing that wasn't up to code. Whatever the case, it's always best to be financially prepared.



Visit a Kitchen and Bath Showroom

If you want to see cabinetry examples firsthand, visit your local kitchen and bath showroom. Experienced staff will be able to walk you through the kitchen design process and you'll be able to see many different samples of materials and colors, and get ideas.

Hire a Professional

Hire a professional as soon as you can. Even if you don't have a perfect idea of what you want, a professional can help you figure it out. They will be able to recommend all the other products and materials you will use. Be sure to shop around for a reputable professional and check their references to see what people have said about their past jobs before committing. Note that the cheapest quote will not be the best quality so look for a professional that has the best balance of quality versus cost for your budget.