

Kitchen Remodeling Checklist



Before You Start

1. Consider professional support. Will you be hiring an interior designer and general contractor to oversee your remodel? If so, start asking friends and trusted professionals for referrals. The Internet is a convenient place to compare and contrast your choices. You can also look for ratings and reviews on sites like Houzz, and your local Better Business Bureau.
2. Think about your current kitchen likes and dislikes. What do you like most about your kitchen? What do you like least about it? Asking yourself these two simple questions early on will help you make good choices throughout the remodeling process. This list of likes and dislikes might include floor plan, appliance configuration, surface materials, interior drawer organization, amount of storage space, and lighting.
3. Determine appliance sizes. Choosing the sizes of your major (main/integrated) appliances is an important first step in beginning to develop a floor plan and sketch of your new kitchen. Decide on sizes for your refrigerator, stove, oven(s) and dishwasher. Remember, at this stage you're only determining sizes; brands and appliance features will be chosen later.
4. Clarify your needs. Determine how your kitchen will be used. How many cooks are present? How much entertaining will you be doing? Are there children, and/or people with disabilities in the household? All these things – and perhaps others – should be taken into consideration as you plan your remodel.
5. Produce a rough kitchen sketch. Create a sketch of your new space that includes the amount of cabinetry, location of main workstations (sink, stove, fridge), ceiling height and major appliance positions. Having this sketch, along with one of your current space, will help you get accurate estimates and better communicate your needs and goals. Remember, the new sketch is rough and preliminary; it's not intended to serve as a final blueprint.

Before you jump into hiring a designer and/or cabinet vendor and start getting quotes, it's best to do a little prep work to ensure your remodel progresses as smoothly as possible toward your desired goal. Take these five simple steps to clarify your remodeling objectives, and also have some rough sketches available that will make meetings with potential vendors more productive and allow for more accurate budgeting.

- Select a cabinet dealer and a kitchen designer to work with.
- Purchase your cabinets and consider the lead time.
- Have this professional measure the kitchen and come up with a preliminary design.
- Rework and refine the design until it is close to complete.
- Decide on type of flooring, heating, lighting, doors and windows.
- Select a contractor, so he / she can create an estimate
- Finalize the cabinet line, handles or knobs, door style, and finish of the cabinetry.
- Select appliances, sink, and usually countertop.
- Order cabinetry and handles and schedule contractor start date.
- Order doors and windows.
- Order appliances and plumbing fixtures. Schedule an approximate delivery date.
- Select and purchase flooring.
- Purchase backsplash tile or material, backsplash grout colors and spacing.
- Select and purchase lighting.
- Decide on paint colors for walls, ceiling, and trim.
- With construction nearly complete, shop for furniture.
- Purchase kitchen table, chairs, stools, and countertop appliances.