



COOK UP A BRAND NEW KITCHEN

All remodels are *not* created equal.

Almost any home improvement will add to the livability and aesthetics of a home, but when you choose the upgrades for your space, it pays to think about the increase in actual value that those upgrades can bring. Some rooms have higher value potential than others, and it's here that you should start planning your remodel.

WHAT'S YOUR BUDGET?

According to the National Kitchen & Bath Association, you should allocate between 10% and 25% of the value of your home for a major kitchen remodel. Of that amount, expect the cabinetry to use up a full half of your budget.

TODAY'S KITCHEN TRENDS

- Granite countertops
- Center island
- Farmhouse sink
- Built-in appliances
- Decorative hoods over cooktops
- Stainless steel appliances
- Cabinet-matching panels to hide appliances
- Furniture-like cabinets in a mix of finishes
- Distinctive hardware

According to remodeling industry experts, improvements to your kitchen have an average payback of between 90% and 102%, making it the most recommended jumping off point for any household facelift.

Here are some tips to help get you started on your kitchen remodel.

- **Plan for your lifestyle—the way you cook and live in the kitchen.** (The Planning Guide on the reverse will help you identify the things that are important to you.)
- **Have an efficient floor plan.** Most designers recommend grouping common elements in a work triangle or station. Also consider how traffic flows through the room.
- **Visualize it.** Visit a showroom to see what real-life (versus photos) items, colors, and textures look like. Or ask your contractor if he or she can supply a 3-D CAD (computer aided design) drawing.
- **Learn about your options.** Find out the pros and cons of items you are considering. Create a file or scrapbook of notes, information, photos and ideas that appeal to you.
- **Think storage.** If extra storage is something you've always needed, now's your chance to add it.
- **Keep safety in mind.** You must carefully consider the potentially dangerous aspects of a kitchen, including the storage of hazardous materials and placement of the stove, ovens and workstations.
- **Light up your life.** Good lighting is critical in a kitchen; yet it's one of the most under-used design elements. Be sure to plan your lighting needs before walls and cabinets are installed.
- **Prioritize.** Make a list of your wants and needs. You may wish to begin with the most important items and add others as finances permit.
- **Minimize any changes.** These usually add extra time and money to the project.

Whether you decide on a major kitchen remodel, or simply opt for minor improvements like a new paint job or interesting window treatments, it's important to give yourself plenty of time to plan and budget your project before any of the work is done. Even if you decide to complete your remodel in stages, this critical first step will go a long way in helping you keep within your budget throughout the process, resulting in the beautiful, functional kitchen you've always wanted.

KITCHEN PLANNING GUIDE

Knowing what you want and need is the first step to planning your new kitchen. Whether you design it yourself or work with a professional remodeler, the following questionnaire will be helpful in identifying and communicating your preferences.

LIFESTYLE

1. Number of people in household: _____
2. Number and approximate ages of household members:
___infants ___young children ___teens
___20 to 30 yrs ___31 to 41 yrs ___41 to 50 yrs
___51 to 60 yrs ___61 to 70 yrs ___70+
3. If there are young children in the home, will they be using the kitchen frequently? ___Yes ___No
4. How long do you plan to live in your home after you remodel?
___1 to 5 yrs ___6 to 10 yrs ___11 to 20 yrs ___20+
5. What requirements for dining do you have?
___Kitchen table ___Breakfast/snack counter ___Other
6. What other activities will take place in your new kitchen?
___Laundry ___Homework ___Watching TV
___Household business ___Sewing ___Computer center
Other _____ Other _____
7. Do you plan to entertain frequently? ___Yes ___No
If yes: What is your entertainment style? ___Formal ___Informal ___Both
Do you have ___large or ___small gatherings?
Do your guests help you in the kitchen when you entertain?
___Yes ___No
8. How do you shop?
___For the week ___Buy in bulk and freeze
___For each meal ___Buy non-perishable items in bulk
If you buy in bulk, do you require storage in the kitchen for all or most of these items? ___Yes ___No

COOKING

9. How many people use the kitchen and share in food preparation? ___
10. Is the primary cook ___left-handed or ___right-handed?
11. How tall is the primary cook? _____
12. What is your cooking style?
___Gourmet meals ___Family meals
___Quick and simple meals ___Bringing home meals
___Baking
13. Do you prefer
___No one else in the kitchen while preparing meals?
___A helper in the kitchen?
___Family and friends visiting during meal preparation

14. Does the primary cook have any physical limitations? ___Yes ___No
If so, what? _____

15. Is there a secondary cook? ___Yes ___No
If so: Do the two cooks prepare meals together ___Yes ___No
16. How tall is the secondary cook? _____
17. What are the secondary cook's responsibilities?
___Preparing side dishes ___Assisting in the main course
___Clean-up
18. Does the secondary cook have any physical limitations?
___Yes ___No

STYLE AND DESIGN

19. What are your color preferences? _____
20. Are there any colors you definitely do not want in your kitchen?

21. Would you be willing to make structural changes, like moving windows, doors, walls? ___Absolutely not ___I would consider it
22. What do you like about your kitchen now?

23. What do you dislike about your kitchen now?

24. Do you require a recycling center in your kitchen? ___Yes ___No
If yes: How many types of items do you need to sort? ___
25. What appliances do you need?
___Dishwasher ___Refrigerator ___Oven ___Cooktop
___Microwave ___Trash compactor ___Wine cooler ___Other
26. What is your style preference?
___Contemporary ___Country ___Formal ___Informal
___Traditional ___Eclectic
27. When would you like to begin your project?

28. When would you like your project completed?

29. How much can you afford to spend? _____