

Kitchen remodel costs & considerations

The checklist will save you time and money. Why? There are a ton of small things that you have to keep in mind. Your brain is for solving problems, not storing data. Take a hint from the airline pilots. They do the same thing several times a day for years, and they still use a checklist for everything.

Budget

- How much can you afford? \$_____
- Add 30%, can you still afford it? \$_____
- What can you reuse?
- What can you resell? Almost everything can be sold
- What don't you need? 6 burners on a stove are almost never used at once

Buying and Ordering

- Select appliances. How much space for each appliance? Research ratings.
- Look at cabinet styles and get preliminary estimates.
- Browse countertop options.
- Get ideas for any large features you want for your kitchen.
- Consider hiring a professional kitchen designer.
- Begin designing the layout for the room.
- Set up a preliminary outline of work to be done.
- Begin ordering windows, doors, moldings, appliances, sink, flooring, etc.
- When ordering, ask about delivery times and installation costs.
- Set up a chronological spreadsheet. Expect it to slip.
- Agree on a payment plan, never pay more than 30% in advance.
- Sign contracts for cabinets, demolition, installation, and other work

You can also download the kitchen remodel project plan template Excel file:

<https://dgd.ee/kitchenxls>



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Kitchen items

- Cabinets \$____
- Cabinet hardware \$____
- Sink \$____
- Floor \$____
- Appliances \$____
- Faucet \$____
- Cabinet knobs \$____
- Backsplash \$____
- Drywall and cement board \$____
- Light fixtures \$____
- Paint and primer \$____
- Exhaust fan \$____
- Countertops \$____
- Inspection/permit costs \$____
- Fixtures/decorations \$____

Luxury additions

- Soft-close hinges \$____
- Smart appliances \$____
- Dimmer switches \$____
- High-end building materials \$____
- Touch on/off faucet \$____
- Kitchen island \$____
- Walk-in pantry \$____
- Trash compactor \$____
- Custom cabinets \$____

Installation materials

- Drywall installation materials \$____
- Caulk \$____
- Ceiling texture \$____
- Window and door trim \$____
- Tile adhesive \$____
- Plumbing Fittings \$____

Preparation

Prepare a description of your project and send the request for proposal to at least three general contractors. The prices can be wildly different, and you have to figure out whom you trust with your new kitchen.

Preparation

- Get a trash container.
- Set up a temporary kitchen.
- Clean out the kitchen.
- Wait for new cabinets and appliances.
- Get rid of old appliances and cabinets.
- Shut off electricity, then water.
- Clean the kitchen and trash area.
- Plan to keep the work areas clean daily.

Demolition

- Keep the kitchen functional as long as possible
- Top cabinets
- Countertops and sink
- Remove appliances
- Base cabinets
- Flooring
- Walls where needed

Construction & cleanup

Now you are ready for the construction work to start. The details are all in place, the scope of the work, warranty, payment terms, and other items to make sure everything goes smoothly.

Plumbing & electricity

- Install the sink, faucets, disposal, and connect water. Test for leaks.
- Electricity main lines to outlet and appliance locations
- Relocate gas when needed
- Relocate exhaust hood vent
- Set HVAC locations

Walls & floors

- Drywall
- Painting the walls
- Install flooring

Installation & decoration

- Install wall cabinets
- Install base cabinets
- Built-in appliances, need to be ready when cabinets are installed
- Install countertops
- Install drawers and doors
- Install backsplash
- Install cabinet end panels and appliance panel covers
- Install lighting fixtures to the ceiling, wall, or under cabinets
- Install window treatments
- Drywall installation materials \$_____
- Clean and polish everything

What do you need for the new kitchen?

If there's something you haven't used, you don't know how it would affect your life. Talk to your friends or go online and ask people about what has surprised them most. Something they didn't know they needed, but when they got it, they can't live without it.

Cabinets

- Replace cabinets or reface with new doors
- Color, painted, stained, or unfinished
- Custom or pre-made
- Style: shaker, glass front, bead board, flat front, other
- Drawers, soft close
- Cabinet inserts: shelves, drawers, pull-outs

Cabinets

- Knob or handle
- Material: brass, brushed nickel, black, bronze, other

Countertops

- Material: granite, quartz, wood, laminate, marble, tile, other
- Color: solid or pattern
- Edge type: square, rounded, other

Island

- Countertop
- Appliance layout (sink, cooktop)
- Height
- Seating

Pantry

- Closet
- Cabinet
- Walk-in
- Storage types: shelves, drawers, bins

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Oven

- Type: range, cooktop, wall oven
- Gas or electric
- Material: white, stainless, black or a color
- Number of burners
- Width

Microwave

- In cabinet, under stove or freestanding
- Finish

Fridge

- French door, side-by-side, bottom or top freezer
- Ice dispenser in the door or inside
- Material: stainless, black, white, custom
- Cabinet surround
- Upper cabinet
- Width and depth

Dishwasher

- Integrated
- Finish - stainless, white, black, other
- 2 or 3 racks

Vent hood

- Wall mount, under cabinet, island, ductless
- Width
- Finish: stainless, black, white, custom

Lighting

- Pendants
- Ceiling lights
- Under cabinet lighting
- Inside of the cabinets
- Style and material: satin, black, brass, bronze, other