

Tips and Advice for Your Kitchen Remodel

A kitchen remodel is never an inexpensive project, so every step of the project should be well considered and thought out. While there are few people out there who can handle the task of a kitchen remodel themselves, most homeowners should enlist the help of a professional, or a team of professionals. Often you may think the existing footprint of your kitchen limits you, but walls, electrical lines, and water lines can all be moved to create a more functional and ideal kitchen space.

The first step should be to consult a kitchen designer who may be able to tell you a layout that might be more functional than your current layout. Whether you chose to knock a wall down to create an open concept kitchen, rearrange the layout and orientation of a kitchen, add a center island or peninsula, or simply leave the same footprint of your kitchen, an upgrade is never a project that a homeowner will regret.

You can first start by looking at websites and through magazines for inspiration. That can be a great starting point for designing a kitchen. As you see examples of magazine-worthy contemporary kitchens, you can help pick out and prioritize the things you want in a kitchen.

If you decide to stick with the current kitchen and simply update and refresh your kitchen, you may be able to consider re-facing your cabinets so you can reserve the budget for high-quality countertops, appliances, and sinks. If you have high-quality wood installed in your kitchen, swapping out the old hardware and re-facing the cabinets can be a huge way to save money. It is a perfectly reasonable DIY project but does require some work. You will need to clean the cabinets, detach them, and actively sand the surface to ensure that the paint or stain adheres properly. When painting, you should first prime with a quality primer before applying at least 2 coats of a self-leveling paint that is designed for wood cabinets. Alternatively, many contractors and painters will do this job for you for considerably less than the cost of replacing all the cabinets.

When planning the layout of your kitchen, you may want to consider if space will accommodate a center island. Kitchen islands are always a coveted aspect of kitchen design because they enforce a sense of order and structure within a kitchen and dictate a sensible flow within the space. A row of bar stools on the far end of a kitchen island can allow the space to double up as a breakfast bar or place where people can sit and entertain. The kitchen island can also be a great way to showcase the look of new stone countertops.

Natural stone countertops are the most commonly installed kitchen countertop in American households, but each type has a different look and a different maintenance plan. Homeowners have been drawn to the veiny and beautiful look of marble for many years, but marble's exquisite beauty comes with a price. It is a porous material and will etch over time when exposed to acids. Further, it requires sealing up to 4 times a year. Granite and quartzite on the other hand, only require sealing 1-2 times a year and are far more durable and heat resistant.

Viscont White granite is a great countertop choice for your kitchen

While many homeowners are drawn to the crisp look of white countertops, others hesitate in installing them because they reveal everyday dirt and grime a lot more easily than a darker stone. Countertop installers see a high demand for mid-range beige stones like [Colonial Gold granite](#) as well as dark stones [like Ubatuba granite](#). A dark countertop is excellent for hiding dirt and provides a beautiful contrast against white or off-white cabinetry.

A kitchen upgrade often requires an appliance upgrade, so after installing sleek new countertops, you will want to complement them with fresh new appliances. The appliances along with lighting, sinks, and hardware will complete the look and feel of your kitchen. There are so many factors to consider when planning a kitchen upgrade, but ultimately you will be happy with your result if you take the time to plan out each detail and commit to quality materials.