

THE KITCHEN REMODEL PROCESS

Week Zero: Find the Right Designer

Find and retain a designer who is qualified and who you feel connected to. A remodel in your home is an intense project that evokes many emotions within most remodelers. You need to feel comfortable talking to your designer about (1) concerns or worries (2) changing your mind on certain aspects of the project (3) anything. If it does not feel like the right “fit”, then you should probably keep looking.

Step Two: Outline Your Goals, Needs and Wishes

Spend the time to talk with your family and your designer about what you expect throughout the project and your final goals. Prepare and prioritize a list of your “needs” and “wants” and understand that time, structural limits and budget can affect some of these items.

Step Three: Create a Realistic Budget

Let’s face it, Kitchen remodels are expensive. If you are going proceed, you need to understand what can and cannot be done for different budgets. This will give you a realistic view of the project and help manage everyone’s expectations. And if you cannot afford to have the job done right, you should not waste your money. Go on a vacation instead or take the time necessary to save an appropriate budget.

A construction bid is a crucial element of your budget. The budget cannot be finalized until you have interviewed and selected your contractor and have obtained an accurate construction quote. Your designer will assist you through this process and help to ensure the scope of the project is accurately set forth in your contractor bids.

Cabinetry and appliances are also major factors affecting your budget. Your designer can educate you on what your money “buys” you when it comes to these items.

Step Four: Create the Spatial Design (the “Layout”)

This step takes place at the same time as step three. The layout of your kitchen is the most important aspect of your kitchen remodel. The most beautiful kitchen in the world will not make you happy if the space does not function properly. Take your time on this step. It may not be as exciting as picking out countertops, but it is the foundation of your new kitchen. It is also necessary to have your design layout as close to final as possible to create the most accurate budget.



HUMANITY HOME & CABINETRY

Step Five: Pick Out Your Materials

This step can be exciting, overwhelming and frustrating all at once. Your designer will guide you through this process and help make it more manageable. Several factors go into your selections: budget, functionality, practicality and of course your style! You will need to rely on your designer's knowledge and advice while making your selections. She will help you keep the overall style and goal of your finished project in mind. It is easy to get lost in the little details and lose sight of the desired end result. On the other hand, it is the little details that, once put in place, can make the difference between an okay space and a fabulous space.

Step Six – Order Your Materials

You will sign off on all the selections and start ordering your products. You will want to order your cabinets first. It takes approximately 6-8 weeks to receive your cabinets once they have been ordered. Once your cabinets are ordered, the time-table for your project is created. You will then order the remaining materials (appliances, countertops, flooring, backsplash, lighting fixtures, plumbing fixtures, cabinetry hardware and paint). Most of these items should be purchased, delivered and inspected prior to starting your project.

Step Seven – Demolition and Construction Begins

Once your cabinets have been delivered your contractor will start the project. The construction schedule goes something like this:

1. Demolition
2. Rough plumbing, electrical, framing and sheetrock work
3. Installation of the base cabinets.
4. Template for countertops
5. Installation of wall and tall cabinets and trim
6. Installation of flooring
7. Installation of appliances
8. Installation of countertops
9. Installation of backsplash
10. Installation of electrical and plumbing fixtures and cabinet hardware
11. Paint and other detailed finish work

Step Seven – Sit Back and Enjoy Your Beautiful New Kitchen!