

How To Plan For A Kitchen Remodel

Your kitchen has served you well throughout the years, but now it's time for a change. There are many reasons people choose to remodel their kitchen, such as:

- » Update the kitchen's look with contemporary materials, finishes and appliances
- » Increase the kitchen's size to accommodate a growing family or for entertaining
- » Improve the kitchen's functionality, layout and relationship to the family room/great room, the dining area and outdoor spaces
- » Improve the kitchen's layout and features for the needs of aging homeowners
- » Improve the kitchen's energy efficiency and utilize other green building techniques

Whatever the reasons are for wanting to remodel your kitchen, you may be unsure of where to start. You're not alone.

A kitchen remodel is a big project and requires preparation!

For someone who has never gone through the remodeling process, starting out can seem intimidating and confusing. Not to worry. We will break down the remodeling preparation process so you'll be able to:

- » Plan and budget for your remodel
- » Approach remodeling company candidates with confidence
- » Get the most out of the initial consultation
- » Know when you're ready to move forward with your kitchen remodel

Planning and Budgeting

It's tempting to pick up the phone and start calling remodeling companies as soon as you start considering a kitchen remodel. Resist this temptation. It's far better to do a little planning on your own first.

You'll get more out of your initial consultation if you already have some ideas and a spending limit.

Start by giving your kitchen a critical review and asking yourself these questions:

- » Do I want my kitchen to stay the same size / layout, or do I want to expand and change it?
- » Do I want to change my appliances, cabinets, and/or countertops?
- » Do I want more storage space? An Island? A walk-in pantry?
- » Do I want to change the layout of the kitchen, move walls, or even move the kitchen?
- » Do I want any special considerations, such as for my elderly parents who just moved back in?

Answering these questions will help you narrow down the changes you want to make to your kitchen. Use this information to create a [kitchen wish list](#) – everything you want in your new kitchen. In addition, it can be helpful to begin a collection of kitchen images / photographs that you like. Magazines



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and the internet are a good place to begin. Be aware that you do not need to have a perfect vision of your kitchen. Rather, if you know what you want changed and have some idea of the style that you like (Tuscan v. Modern, for example) it will give the design consultant a direction to work with as he or she helps you refine your ideas during the initial consultation.

Now comes the hard part. Depending on your budget, you may not be able to do everything on your kitchen remodel wish list. Go through the list and mark those things that you absolutely must have and those that you'd be willing to cut or change.

It is in your best interest to think about some figures before you approach a remodeling company. You don't need to have a strict budget in mind - in fact, a range is preferred - but you should know what your spending limit is. This will help the design consultant work within your budget during the initial consultation.

Once you have your kitchen wish list ready and a budget range in mind, you're ready to call a remodeling company like Marrokal Design & Remodeling to schedule an initial consultation.

The Initial Consultation

Most remodeling companies, including Marrokal Design & Remodeling, offer prospective clients a free in-home remodeling consultation. Take advantage of this opportunity.

Don't be shy! Make sure you get the most from your remodeling consultation.

In preparing for the initial consultation, we recommend that you have your kitchen remodel wish list and an idea of your budget range ready. You may also want to jot down questions before the event, since it can sometimes be hard to remember everything you wanted to ask on the spot. We also highly recommend that you include the people who will be most affected the remodel. This would likely include a spouse, partner or other family members, as applicable.

Remember that the remodeling consultation is for your benefit. Ask all of your questions, present your ideas and request feedback. A good design consultant will:

- » Listen carefully to your ideas, concerns and goals
- » Provide considerate and helpful feedback
- » Point out any potential issues or concerns with your wish list
- » Help you develop and refine your ideas
- » Provide you with different options to meet your remodel goals
- » Propose cost-saving options
- » Answer your questions thoroughly
- » Explain the design / build remodeling process
- » Provide estimated cost ranges for different aspects of the project
- » Be respectful to you, your family (including your pets) and your home



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Gathering Design Ideas

A reputable remodeling company usually offers a showroom where homeowners can view real-life examples of their work. Marrokal's Design Center is where we share ideas and possibilities with existing and potential clients to help them flesh out their vision of their remodel and to help them choose materials, styles and colors. It includes a wide array of tiles, countertops, appliances, cabinetry, lighting options and much more. Small vignettes have been created to showcase how different materials can complement each other and work in harmony to create a unique style. The process can be very exciting and rewarding for homeowners as they start to visualize what their newly remodeled space could soon look like.

Now it's time for you to take all of the information you've gathered and decide if a remodel is right for you.

Making the Decision to Do a Kitchen Remodel

Only you can decide if a kitchen remodel is right for you. You'll need to weigh the cost with the benefits of having the kitchen you truly want. Your budget will play a large role in determining the size, scope and level of materials and finishes you choose for your new kitchen. The choices are almost unlimited. Your Design Consultant can help you find the right balance between your wish list and your level of investment.

If you do decide to go ahead, the remodeling company of your choice should take care of you throughout the remodeling process. At Marrokal, we make sure to keep in constant communication with our clients throughout the project from start to finish.

Now that you know how to prepare for your kitchen remodel, it's time to get started with that kitchen wish list. We hope that you found this information useful and that you'll consider Marrokal when you're ready to get started. Visit www.marrokal.com to learn more about our company and www.marrokal.com/resources/free-consultation to request your complimentary in-home consultation.



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