



KITCHEN REMODELING GUIDE

WHAT YOU NEED
TO KNOW

CABINET  **GENIES**
— EXPERTS IN DESIGN & FUNCTION —



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

01

Define the Goal

Identify what is not working today and what the finished kitchen needs.

02

Level of Change

Decide whether your project is a refresh, a reimagination, or a full transformation.

03

Prioritize The Experience

Focus on storage, flow, entertaining, durability, style, and the way you use the room

04

Prepare for the Process

Gather inspiration, measurements, appliance information, and a realistic decision-making plan



WHAT SHAPES A RENOVATION?

01

Kitchen Size

More cabinetry, surfaces, and installation details.

02

Layout Changes

Moving walls, appliances, plumbing, or electrical.

03

Cabinetry

Construction, finish, storage features, and customization.

04

Surfaces

Countertop material, edge details, backsplash, and flooring.

05

Appliances

Size, ventilation, power, and integration requirements.

06

Existing Conditions

Uneven floors, hidden damage, access, and code needs.

07

Project Coordination

Number of trades, permits, lead times, and sequencing.

08

Finish Level

Essential, enhanced, or signature product selections.

Your design consultation turns these variables into a clear, personalized plan.

REFRESH

Renovation Path 01

Keep the footprint. Improve the look, function, and everyday experience.



BEST FOR

Homeowners who like the basic layout but want the kitchen to feel current, cleaner, and better organized.

MAY INCLUDE

- New Cabinets
- New Countertops
- Updated Hardware
- Sink and faucet replacement
- Lighting Updates
- Limited Construction
- Cabinet Installation



A refresh works best when the room functions well and the main goal is a visual and storage upgrade.



REIMAGINE

Renovation Path 02

Improve both appearance and function while thoughtfully changing key parts of the room.



BEST FOR

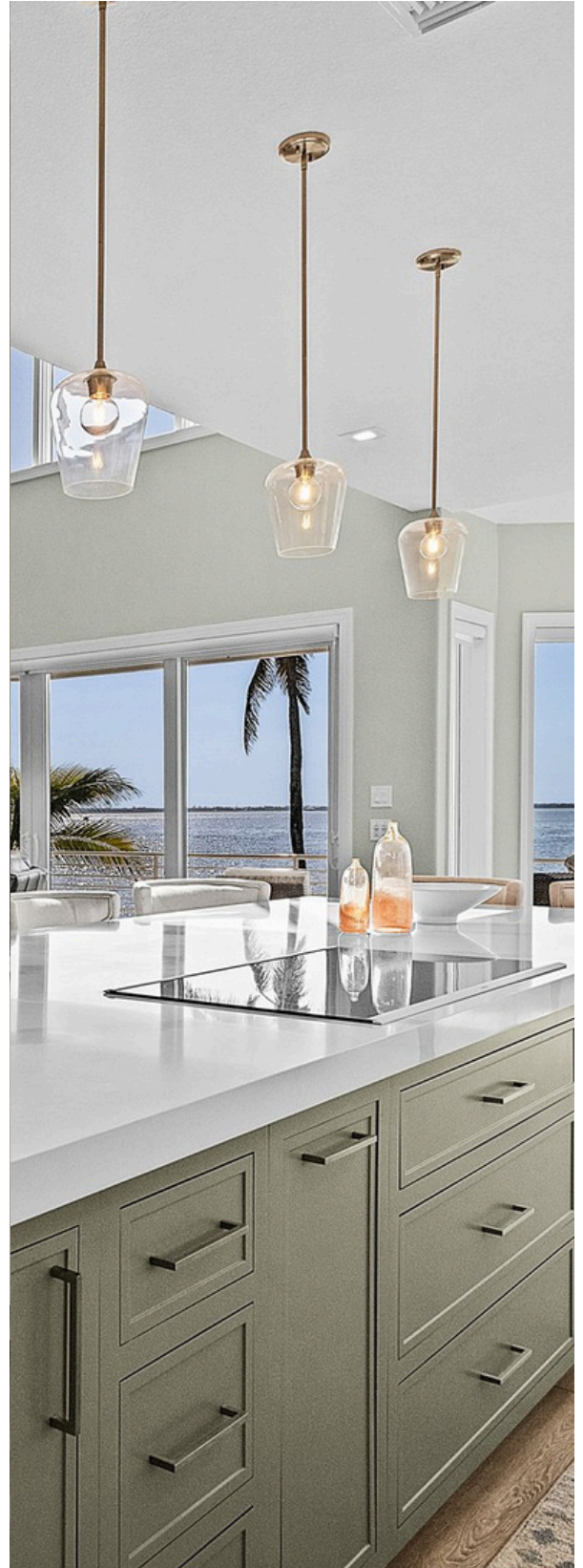
Homeowners who need better storage, a stronger layout, improved appliance placement, or a more useful island.

MAY INCLUDE

- Semi-custom cabinetry
- A redesigned island/peninsula
- Storage improvements
- New countertops and backsplash
- Appliance integration
- Lighting changes
- Minor plumbing or electrical changes
- Professional project coordination



Reimagine projects balance meaningful change with disciplined scope.



TRANSFORM

Renovation Path 03

Create a completely new space with a redesigned layout and coordinated construction.



BEST FOR

Homeowners whose current kitchen no longer supports the way they cook, gather, move, or entertain.

MAY INCLUDE

- A redesigned footprint
- Custom cabinetry
- Structural changes
- Relocated plumbing or electrical
- Premium surfaces and finished
- Integrated appliances
- Flooring and lighting
- Expanded project management



A transformation requires the most planning, coordination, and early decision-making.





WHAT MATTERS MOST TO YOU?

**Circle or highlight the priorities that should
guide your design.**

☐

Better Storage

☐

More countertop space

☐

A larger island

☐

Improved traffic flow

☐

Easier entertaining

☐

More natural light

☐

Easier cleaning

☐

Accessibility

☐

Durable finishes

☐

Resale appeal

☐

A completely new style

☐

Better cooking performance

☐

Keeping the current layout

☐

Done by an important date

**Your priorities help us determine where the design should remain
simple and where attention will create the greatest impact.**



PRODUCT DECISIONS

CABINETS

STOCK

Standard sizes and a focused selection of styles and finishes.

Best when speed, simplicity, and a straightforward layout matter most.

SEMI-CUSTOM

More door styles, finishes, modification, and storage options.

Best for homeowners who want a tailored look while working within an established cabinet system.

FULLY CUSTOM

Built to exact specifications with the highest level of flexibility.

Best for unique architecture, highly specific details, and spaces where every inch is optimized.

PRODUCT DECISIONS

COUNTERTOPS

GRANITE/QUARTZITE

A natural stone with unique patterns, cut from quarries and polished for use.

PRO:

- Durable.
- Heat-Resistant.
- Unique Appearance

CON:

- Requires Sealing
- Can Stain
- Limited Color Consistency

QUARTZ

Engineered stone made from crushed quartz and resins for durability.

PRO:

- Low Maintenance
- Stain-Resistant
- Consistent Color Options

CON:

- Not as Heat Resistant as Granite
- Less Natural Look

PORCELAIN

Man-made, ultra-dense ceramic material often designed to mimic stone.

PRO:

- Highly Durable
- Heat/Stain/Scratch Resistant
- Minimal Maintenance

CON:

- Expensive.
- Can Chip Under Heavy Impact
- Limited Edge Profile Options

PRODUCT DECISIONS

APPLIANCES

STANDARD INSTALLATION

A standard appliance installation places the appliance in its designated opening, with the door or front projecting slightly beyond the surrounding cabinetry.

PRO:

- Most common and easiest to plan
- Easier to replace in the future

CON:

- Appliances may appear more prominent
- Create a seamless, built-in look

FLUSH INSTALLATION

A flush installation aligns the front of the appliance closely with the face of the surrounding cabinet doors and drawer fronts.

PRO:

- Creates a cleaner, more integrated appearance
- Reduces how far the appliance projects into the room

CON:

- Can be expensive
- Requires precise planning

FLUSH-INSET INSTALLATION

A flush-inset installation positions the appliance within the cabinetry so the appliance front sits inside the cabinet opening and aligns with inset doors or surrounding panels

PRO:

- Provides custom, furniture-like appearance

CON:

- Appliance choices are more limited
- Installation complexity

PRODUCT DECISIONS

FLOORING

LAMINATE

You can get the look of real wood or stone with laminate.

It's comprised of mostly high density fiberboard made from wood.

PRO:

- Vast array of options available
- Affordable
- Water resistant

CON:

- Not waterproof

VINYL

Engineered vinyl has come a long way and is now seeing a resurgence in popularity.

It's comprised of 4 layers of polymers and the bottom layer acts as the underlay.

PRO:

- Mimics the look of hardwood or stone.
- Very durable
- Waterproof

CON:

- Can be scratched or dented

STONE

Natural stone includes limestone, slate, travertine and marble.

You have an immense selection of colors and sizes and the stone tiles can be laid out in a variety of patterns.

PRO:

- Very durable
- Water Resistant
- Hundreds of options

CON:

- Slippery
- Grout will need to be replaced from time to time

PRODUCT DECISIONS

FLOORING

TILE

There are two main types of tile - ceramic and porcelain.

Ceramic is made from water and sand and is slightly softer. Porcelain is made of finer, denser clay fired at high heat making it stronger.

PRO:

- Vast array of options available
- Low maintenance
- Waterproof

CON:

- Can be expensive

ENGINEERED WOOD

Engineered wood is made of a thin veneer or wood bonded to layers of structural plywood.

PRO:

- Mimics the look of real wood
- Very durable
- Water Resistant

CON:

- Can be scratched or dented

SOLID WOOD

As the name implies, solid wood is comprised of one solid piece of wood all the way through.

You have an immense selection of colours and sizes and is available in over 50 species.

PRO:

- Very durable
- Can be sanded and refinished
- Extremely long lasting

CON:

- Prone to contraction/expansion
- Expensive

PRODUCT DECISIONS

BACKSPLASH

TILE & STONE

This includes ceramic, porcelain and natural stone tiles.

You have an immense selection of colours and sizes and the tiles can be laid out in a variety of patterns.

PRO:

- Can be stain resistant (varies by product)
- Hundreds of options
- Variety of price points

CON:

- Grout requires maintenance

STONE SLAB

This look has become very popular recently. It's great if you prefer a minimalist look. The countertop material is taken up the wall which creates a clean and continuous line.

PRO:

- Easy to clean
- Visually easy on the eye
- No grout lines to deal with

CON:

- Can be expensive
- Difficult to replace

HANDCRAFTED TILE

This is handcrafted by artisans and when I say handcrafted I mean all of it. From cutting to glazing to embellishments, it's a labour of love.

PRO:

- No two tiles are alike
- Creates a unique statement

CON:

- Expensive
- Can be difficult to clean

PRODUCT DECISIONS

PLUMBING FIXTURES

STANDARD

You've seen these faucets at big box stores. These offer a few features aside from just the basics.

They use mixed materials and the internal components often consist of plastic, with a few metal parts throughout the assembly.

PRO:

- Cost effective
- Lots to choose from

CON:

- Fewest number of upgrade options
- Sometimes made from inferior materials
- Can have shorter lifespan

ENHANCED

If you're looking for a faucet that has a bit more than basics, you'll find it here. This might include a pull down spout or a few more finish options.

Brands found in this price category are Moen, Delta and Kohler.

PRO:

- Offer a few upgrades
- Can have a high end look
- Easy to find replacement parts

CON:

- Limited upgrades
- Fewer finish options

SIGNATURE

Think of brands like Rohl or Grohe. These offer touchless and voice activated features.

Higher-end faucets usually feature durable metal components.

PRO:

- Beautiful design
- Smart features available
- Upgraded finishes

CON:

- Can be very expensive



PRODUCT DECISIONS

LIGHTING

STANDARD

Standard lighting provides the basic illumination needed for everyday use through recessed lights, simple pendants, and commonly available fixtures.

PRO:

- Practical General Lighting
- Easy to Source

CON:

- Quality of the finish can vary
- May not provide enough task or accent lighting

LAYERED

Layered lighting combines general, task, and accent lighting to improve both function and atmosphere. This may include recessed lighting, under-cabinet lighting, decorative pendants, and interior cabinet lighting.

PRO:

- Allows different levels for different activities
- Highlights material details
- Makes the room feel complete

CON:

- More switches and controls may be needed

ARCHITECTURAL

Architectural lighting is fully integrated into the design and may include concealed LED channels, illuminated shelving, toe-kick lighting, specialty fixtures, and automated controls.

PRO:

- Creates a refined, custom look
- Can be programmed for different moods and activities

CON:

- Requires precise coordination
- Dedicated location for components

PRODUCT DECISIONS

HARDWARE

STANDARD

These are available at big box stores and offer a basic variety of shapes and finishes.

PRO:

- Cost effective.

CON:

- Finishes can be dull.
- Very basic design.

DESIGNER

This price point will deliver a larger variety in both shapes and finishes.

They can look great without the expense or delivery timelines of the higher priced options.

PRO:

- Wide range of options.
- Adds personality and visual interest
- Better finish consistency

CON:

- Can be expensive.

STATEMENT

If details matter the most to you this is the right price point for you.

Higher end hardware is truly like the jewelry to finish off a perfect outfit.

PRO:

- Adds texture, contrast, character
- Compliments premium cabinetry

CON:

- Speciality finishes may require additional care
- Can overwhelm the look of your cabinetry

COMMON RENOVATION MISTAKES

Too Many Upgrades

We all want the very best when renovating our home but upgrading all your materials can seriously affect your budget.

Try to consider the high/low method of mixing the materials you absolutely can't live without alongside some more affordable materials. This could look like the quartz you love with a less expensive backsplash tile.

Difficulty Making Decisions

Timelines rely on quick decision making on your part. If it's difficult for our team or your contractor to get answers regarding important questions and concerns it can slow down progress. Ultimately, this can lead to extended timelines, including your completion date.

Too Many Changes

Change orders are necessary when items are out of stock or discontinued. It's the change of heart about materials that have been approved that can be problematic.

Timelines typically begin once the design has been approved. If changes are made after approval, there may be lengthy delays.



PREPARING FOR YOUR RENOVATION

01. Pack

This is a great time to purge and get rid of all the odd mugs and chipped plates you've been wanting to replace. Your entire kitchen needs to be packed up and stored in order for the work to begin.



02. Temporary Kitchen

If you'll be living in your home during the renovation you'll want to prepare a temporary kitchen. This should include a way to prep and cook your meals. You'll also want to have a spot for washing up. And don't forget your coffee maker!

03. Temporary Dining

Designate an area of your home as your new dining area. If you normally eat in the kitchen. If your dining room is adjoining the kitchen it may be sealed up in order to keep debris from damaging anything in there. Some folding chairs and a small table are great. As a last resort, have a picnic blanket handy and have fun with it.



OUR PROCESS

Wish to Reality Roadmap

**Concept & Lifestyle
Discovery**
We learn your goals, style,
priorities, and how you want
the space to function.
Milestone: Concept Aligned.



Concept Reveal
We present the initial
concept/blueprint and overall
design direction for your
approval.
Milestone: Design
Authorization

Design Development
We refine the design in detail
and prepare an accurate
project investment.
Milestone: Finalized Design.



**Project Approval &
Planning**
We confirm final details, then
finalize the project agreement.
After approval, purchasing and
scheduling begin.
Milestone: Approved Design &
Purchasing

**Project Planning,
Delivery & Installation**
We coordinate logistics,
deliver cabinetry, and
complete installation.
Milestone: Installation
Complete.



**Wish Granted & Ongoing
Care**
We complete the final
walkthrough, confirm
completion, and support you
after handoff with
warranty/service care.
Milestone: Project Complete.





YOUR DREAM SPACE STARTS WITH A PLAN

Book a Complimentary Planning Session

Use your guide as a starting point, then let our team help you turn ideas into a clear project path.



Clarify your project scope



Explore product direction



Understand your next steps



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Monday to Friday
9:00AM - 5:00PM



Scan to visit our website
and request your planning session.



COMPLIMENTARY SESSION

No obligation. Just expert guidance.