

Before You Begin Your Kitchen Project

Remodeling a kitchen can be a big undertaking, and requires detailed planning. If you're thinking about redoing your kitchen, these ideas offer some important things to consider before you go ahead with your remodeling plans.

Whether you've already gathered information, ideas, and samples, or are in the beginning stages of looking at your space and trying to figure out what to do, it's smart to step back and consider the larger picture of remodeling a kitchen.

Things to Consider:

1. Contact a local realtor for advice on how much your home may be worth and how much a kitchen might add to the home's value.
2. Study kitchen and remodeling magazines for design hints.
3. Look for ways to save money by doing parts of the work yourself.

To Add On or Not to Add On

Space is often a basic need when remodeling a kitchen. Yet before you knock out the walls, weigh the cost of the extra space vs. either saving the money you would have spent on an addition or putting some of that money into better quality cabinets or countertops instead.

Things to Consider:

1. Think about your true goal for kitchen remodeling. Is it really more square footage or is it for a lighter, brighter, more functional kitchen space?
2. Look to adjoining rooms where you might steal some space. You might take some smaller rooms (laundry room, pantry, bathroom, or mudroom) and merge them to create a more functional kitchen space.
3. Discuss your project with an experienced kitchen designer.

Existing Layout May Be A Way To Save

Many designers agree that the best way to save money on a kitchen remodeling project is to keep the kitchen's current layout. That doesn't mean that every new cabinet must be in the same location as the ones you remove. You'll save money by leaving major systems such as plumbing, gas, electric, and heating

intact. Although it may provide a more functional design, rearranging your layout could result in added expenses such as:

- Relocating water lines for sinks, dishwashers, icemakers, and refrigerators
- Moving gas piping for a cooktop or oven
- Re-routing heating and air conditioning ductwork
- Upgrading vents and ductwork for a range hood