



Kitchen Planner

When you want to remodel your kitchen, answering the following questions will organize your thinking and give you a solid foundation for discussing the project with a building professional, architect, or designer.

Planner:

List things that you do not like about your existing kitchen (ie traffic flow, storage, counter space, lighting, connection to rest of house, size of room, flooring, colors, etc.):

List things you like in kitchens of friends and relatives:

Collect photos from magazines, internet, or newspapers of features you like.

Do you cook a lot? Do others cook with you?

Is your kitchen a focus when you entertain? Do you want any special features in the kitchen (i.e. commercial range, island, commercial coffee center, etc.)?

Does the kitchen need to be opened up to the rest of the house (i.e. den, dining room, great room, etc.)?



What style kitchen cabinets do you want?

Do you have a preference for flooring?

Do you have a preference for lighting?

What is your budget for the project?

Tips:

Common mistakes that are made when remodeling a kitchen:

- Using appliances that are too big for the size of the kitchen
- Skimping on hardware quality – drawer slides, hinges
- Not having enough pull-outs
- Poor cabinet finish quality
- Style of cabinets chosen does not fit style of home
- Assuming custom-built cabinets are more expensive than ready-made (typically they are not)

Trends:

Listed below are some of the current trends in kitchen design:

- Paint versus stained finish for cabinets – 50%/50%
- European hinges – full ball bearing drawer slides (Accuride is best)
- Maximize pullout
- Pantry – with racks, pull-outs, drawers, bins
- Lazy Susan corner units for hard to get to corners



- Special spice storage
- Built-in microwaves
- Sculptural exhaust hoods
- Islands – depending on space
- Slide-out cutting boards
- Crown moulding on cabinets
- Simple cabinet design – Shaker or flat panel doors
- Cleanable cabinet interiors – Melamine (white or maple) or varnished wood surface
- Maple drawer boxes with finish
- Clean, simple lines to handles and knobs
- Built-in looking appliances
- Use of wood from “Green” sources
- Use of low VOC wood and finishes