



KITCHEN REMODELING CHECKLIST



Assess your needs

- Measure the dimensions of your current kitchen
- Make comparisons with what your neighbors have
- Determine whether areas should be larger or smaller
- Identify chokepoints for foot traffic or areas that accumulate clutter
- Decide what features you like about your current kitchen and what you'd like to change



Plan your project

- List all your kitchen remodeling goals
- Create an idea folder for your dream kitchen remodeling project
- Determine what your top priorities are
- Plan time without the use of your kitchen



Determine your project budget

- Set your budget at no more than 20% of your home's total market value
- Add 20% if you intend to hire an interior designer
- Set an additional 20% for contingency expenses



FEATURES TO CONSIDER

Kitchen layouts

- One wall
- Galley
- U-shape
- G-shape
- L-shape
- Island

Walls

- Paint color
- Tiling options
- Backsplash
- Switch placement

Cabinets

- New
- Refaced
- Restored

Countertop types

- Granite
- Marble
- Laminate
- Synthetic or engineered stone
- Butcher-block
- Tile
- Concrete

Sink types

- Single or double bowl
- Oversize bowl(s)
- Granite Engineered stone
- Coated cast iron
- Stainless steel
- Composite

Sink features

- Faucet
- Sprayer
- Soap dispenser
- Garbage disposal
- Filtered water dispenser
- Extension
- Hot water dispenser

Flooring types

- Ceramic tile
- Laminate
- Vinyl
- Hardwood
- Linoleum

Lighting

- Track
- Recessed

Appliances

- Oven
- Stovetop
- Dishwasher
- Television
- Refrigerator
- Hood
- Trash compactor





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Hire a contractor

The scope of your remodel project and your own expertise will determine whether you DIY, hire a contractor who specializes in kitchen remodeling or hire specialists to do each aspect of the work.

- Research reviews, ratings, and licensing of local kitchen remodeling contractors using Angie's List
- Narrow your list and getting three detailed written estimates
- Interview contractors and ask about their experience on projects similar to yours, whether they have in-house employees or subcontractors
- Use Angie's List License Check tool to verify the contractors' license in your state
- Check their contractor or trade license if required
- Verify their references from previous kitchen remodeling jobs and ask whether they cleaned up the job site daily

TIP: Some disreputable contractors will fake their certificate insurance, so get it directly from the contractor's insurance company.



Review the contract

Make sure the contract contains the following elements:

- Detailed project description
- Materials to be used
- Brand-names of products
- Quality level of materials
- Responsible party for pulling permits and submitting paperwork for inspections, if necessary
- Start and finish dates for phases and overall project
- Payment amounts and due dates
- The contractor's insurance coverage information and property damage liability
- Warranties and guarantees for craftsmanship and the final product
- A lien waiver for material suppliers or subcontractors

TIP: As a general rule, never pay more than 1/3 of a project's overall cost as down payment or deposit.

TIP: Some homeowners will include daily penalties to the contractor's payment for every day the project a project phase goes over deadline.

Make sure the job's done correctly

- As the contractor finishes the project, make up a punch list
- Do not make final payment until the contractor has completed it

HOW Angie's list CAN HELP

- www.angieslist.com/remodeling/kitchen-remodeling.htm
- www.angieslist.com/remodeling/planning.htm
- www.angieslist.com/plumbing/kitchens.htm
- www.angieslist.com/construction-remodeling/countertops.htm
- www.angieslist.com/remodeling/cabinets.htm
- www.angieslist.com/remodeling/glossary-remodeling.htm

