

## BATH + KITCHEN



**PLAN  
LIKE A PRO:**  
CREATE A  
GORGEOUS  
KITCHEN THAT  
INSPIRES YOU  
EVERY DAY

### WHAT'S INSIDE

- Setting Goals
- Kitchen Styles
- Design Trends
- Material Costs
- Typical Timeline

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Kitchen Remodel  
by Bath•Kitchen  
in Alexandria, VA



## Introduction

A good designer can make any kitchen space come alive, ensuring it looks fantastic and functions perfectly. But do you want more than that?

When you step into your kitchen in the morning to get a cup of coffee, it should be more than caffeine that boosts your mood. Like your coffee, the design of the space should be just the way you like it, giving you that perfect moment of peace and inspiration.

## How can you make your kitchen feel like an extension of yourself, one that fits your lifestyle perfectly?

To achieve your perfect kitchen, your kitchen designer or contractor will need honest, carefully-considered input from you. This will require you to reflect on what you want and get to know your options. **Through this e-book, we'll walk you through the various aspects of kitchen design that can be enhanced with your input.** Once you've read it, you will know exactly what you want and have a clear vision to share with your kitchen designer, who can then help you bring it to life with professional recommendations.

**This e-book will also help anyone taking a more DIY approach to kitchen design.** Regardless of your approach, it's so important for you to have a good, detailed picture of what you want before you begin such a project. Unlike other rooms in your home, your kitchen is set up to last; you can't change the layout just by moving some furniture around. That's why every detail has to be planned well, so it all comes together and works together beautifully from the get-go.

Ready to envision the kitchen of your dreams? Let's dive into the details and discover what you really want your kitchen to look and feel like!





Latte Love Kitchen by Bath + Kitchen

## First, Reflect.

Why do you need a new kitchen?

We can find ourselves dreaming of a new kitchen design for different reasons. But if you're not sure whether you're actually ready for a remodel, we have a list of questions that you can ask yourself.

### **1. Does the flow of the space work for me?**

When you clean your kitchen, if you find that things go back to being messy and disorganized really quickly, it's a good idea to re-evaluate the flow of your kitchen. That flow depends on how items are placed within the space, including everything from the kitchen island to your spices. Sometimes, a few adjustments are all you need to make the space work better. However, there is a limit to how much you can change within an existing design. From our years of experience as a [full-service design-remodel firm](#), we know that sometimes a new kitchen design is the only way to create a flow that actually suits your needs and makes cooking and cleaning up a lot easier.

### **2. Is the style still a good fit for me?**

A style that may have been interesting and chic a few years ago could look dated now, especially if you opted for something very bold and trendy that has since fallen out of style. To find out how much you really need to change, consider key aspects such:

- Flooring
- Cabinetry
- Countertops
- Seating
- Metals used in fixtures, handles, and cabinetry hardware.

### **3. Am I able to store things comfortably and stay organized?**

Both spacious and small kitchens can have storage problems, and they all come down to planning with your specific storage needs in mind. If you haven't assigned spaces to different items in your kitchen, you may find them piling up on the countertop, causing clutter and confusion about where to find what you need. Think of the last time you cooked a big meal. Were you able to find all the ingredients you needed, and were they kept fresh through proper storage? Was putting everything back a challenge? How easy it is to get everything together—including utensils, tools, and cookware—will tell you how usable your kitchen actually is.

### **4. Do my appliances work efficiently?**

Upgrading your appliances is a good idea when they aren't functioning smoothly, have outdated features, don't fit the bill aesthetically, or consume a lot of energy. Another thing to remember is that technology is making its way into our appliances in new and interesting ways. You can now control your fridge temperature as well as make sure your steak is done to perfection with innovative cooktops over Wi-Fi. How do your current appliances stack up against today's future-ready appliances with their impressive capabilities? Think about how you want to use your kitchen and ask yourself if you have the required tools and gadgets to achieve that.





**Blue & White Handleless Kitchen by Bath + Kitchen**

### **5. Do I have enough counter space?**

A mistake some people make is only considering the active tasks around cooking – such as chopping and prep work – when evaluating their counter space needs. What can get forgotten is things that will take up space almost permanently, like certain appliances. Taking these steps into consideration, you may realize you need more room. Other factors that can influence this include how many people generally cook a meal; whether it's just one or if other family members like to join in.

### **6. Have there been any major lifestyle or family changes that my space needs to accommodate?**

Has your family grown since you moved in? If there are more people living with you now, it's a good idea to re-evaluate and see if the kitchen accommodates them well. This could be in terms of workspace (if your family cooks together) or kitchen seating. If you need to make your kitchen safer for kids, take the right precautions and see if you need to fix any sharp edges or add locks to lower cabinets.

When you're assessing this, think about each member of your household and what they might find challenging now or in a few years.

### **7. Should I consider universal design requirements?**

As mentioned above, it's important to think about how you and your loved ones plan to use the space in the long run. Universal design helps you make the space more accessible and comfortable to others who live or may live with you at some point, or even for yourself as you get older.

### **8. Does the space help me host guests more comfortably, or does it make it more stressful?**

If you have storage issues or are finding it difficult to keep things organized on a regular day, adding guests to the mix certainly won't help! The flow of your space and how well it is planned can determine how comfortable you feel inviting other people into your home and kitchen. When you have guests over for a meal, for example, it can be stressful, but your kitchen design shouldn't add to that stress. Instead, it should help you find and do everything with ease.

### **9. Is there an upcoming event for which I would like to complete my kitchen remodel?**

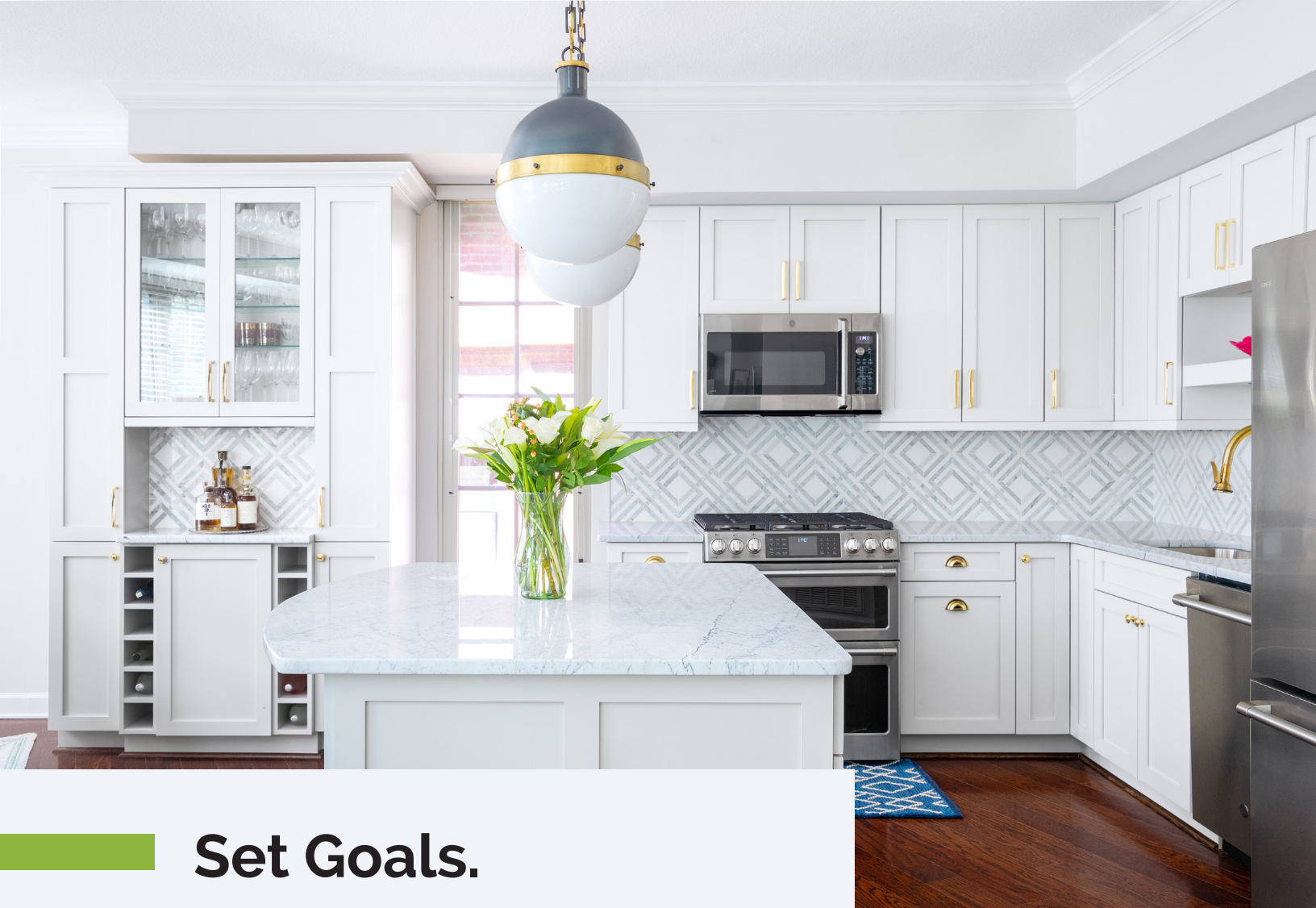
If you foresee yourself becoming busy with work or something else in the near future, plan your remodel so that it is completed before you need to shift focus. Or, you may want your new kitchen design brought to life before the next big family visit or event. It's good to be clear with your remodel team about this beforehand, so the project stays on track. Read about how we helped one family complete their [kitchen remodel in just 8 weeks](#).

**Read more by**

**Bath + Kitchen:**

10 questions that will tell you if you need a new kitchen design





## Set Goals.

Inspired by goals our clients set.



With this kind of clarity before your project begins, you can avoid some [common errors](#) that could prevent you from getting the kitchen or bathroom of your dreams. To inspire you, here are some remodeling goals our clients work towards:

## Increasing resale value

For people starting a remodel project, a strong motivator is the promise of increased resale value. Upgrading key spaces and equipping them with new fixtures, fittings, and appliances could help you command a better price for your home. Also, if your current kitchen, for example, has any major issues or unattractive features, a remodel that fixes those could eliminate dealbreakers for a potential buyer. A remodel can also have a significant impact when [refinancing](#) a home.

## Meeting maintenance requirements

A remodel is a chance to update your space and make any changes that are required to get everything up to code. If the inner workings of your home do not meet current requirements, upgrading them could be a top priority for your remodel. In addition to meeting legal requirements, making these changes can save you a lot of time, effort, and money in the future. For example, if there's an issue with your wiring, there's a higher risk of fires. Flooding can occur when plumbing isn't properly installed. Keeping these potential issues in mind when you plan your remodel is important. Depending on how much you need to fix, this could become one of your key remodeling goals for the project.

## Adding desired features or functionality

Is there something that bothers you about your current space that you absolutely have to fix during your remodel? When clients discuss

their existing kitchens or bathrooms with us, many of them bring up functionality first. While your space may have appeared comfortable or suited to your needs at one point, it could have some significant issues that are difficult to fix without a remodel.

## Improving energy efficiency

Over the years, energy efficiency has become more of a priority for homeowners. In addition to the environmental benefits and lower power bills, working towards greener spaces can also make you eligible for lower interest rates on certain loans such as [green mortgages](#) and other energy-efficient mortgage programs. Your home remodel could focus on this by upgrading appliances, for example your dishwasher. "A new Energy Star-rated dishwasher not only uses less energy (a dishwasher typically accounts for 2% of your gas or electric bill) but can also save as much as 1,200 gallons of water a year", says [Mortgageloan.com](#). There is plenty to be gained by making energy efficiency a priority during your remodel.

### Read more by

#### Bath + Kitchen:

Setting remodeling goals  
for your perfect kitchen  
or bathroom





## Start Planning.

How to plan the perfect kitchen remodel.

The perfect kitchen remodel involves making many important decisions at the right time. It can be very overwhelming, but we believe a good kitchen planning guide can help. The steps listed here are based on years of experience providing unparalleled bathroom and kitchen remodeling services to clients in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC.

## 1. Settle on a style

Farmhouse or Industrial? Contemporary or French Country? Modern or Mediterranean? It's time to pick a kitchen style for your remodel! Identifying a style that suits you, your home, and your practical requirements will help your kitchen designer immensely. Keep in mind that the idea of a certain style could sound better than it will look. Consider the following aspects as you compare styles:

- » **Color:** Do you like soft, relaxing shades or bold colors and accents?
- » **Materials:** Are you drawn to earthy, natural materials or sleek, glossy finishes?
- » **Furnishings:** What sounds better—practical or ornamental?
- » **Walls:** Do you like exposed brick and unfinished concrete? Or do you prefer a paint finish?
- » **Decorative elements:** What style will work best for the décor items you generally prefer?

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**The next chapter has a selection of kitchen styles and aesthetics for you to browse through.**

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## 2. Decide on the elements you want in your kitchen

Picture your kitchen in use. What elements would it take to bring that vision to life? These could be:

- » Base, wall, and display kitchen units
- » Island(s) with accompanying seating

- » Sink
- » Larder units
- » Hob and oven
- » Special taps
- » Sliding doors
- » Designated spaces such as a breakfast nook

Whether you're pulling out all the stops or choosing an affordable kitchen remodel, having a clear picture of all the elements that really matter to you will ensure you end up with a kitchen you love.

## 3. Assess your space and create a floorplan

Marking everything, including doors and windows, create a floorplan to scale. If you work with a [full-service design-remodel firm](#), like ours, this step will be taken care of for you, but doing a rough sketch will help you visualize everything better.

## 4. Plan your kitchen work triangle – sink, hob, fridge

For a perfect kitchen remodel, think carefully about the [kitchen work triangle](#), i.e., how your fridge, sink, and hob connect with each other. Some designers now wonder if this is an outdated way to design a kitchen. Others, however, believe this approach has stood the test of time and won't fail you. Why? Because it takes into consideration the flow of "traffic" within your kitchen together with the key functions—preparing ingredients (sink), cooking (hob), and



storing food (fridge). We recommend going over these options with your kitchen designer.

## 5. Choose a look for your cabinetry

Before a kitchen renovation project, we always tell our clients to think carefully about the cabinetry they choose because we believe kitchen cabinets are the cornerstone of any kitchen design. Ensure you have the right cabinets by looking at all the details—cabinet door profile, door styles, finish, function, and organization. For inspiration, check out the [new cabinetry](#) that our clients have chosen for their dream kitchens.

## 6. Pick a worktop that suits your needs

The look of a countertop is crucial when it comes to establishing your kitchen style. However, what will eventually become more important to you is maintenance. A worktop is something you need to commit to. For example, marble is timeless and elegant, but are you willing to seal it every 6 months to 2 years? If not, there's a world of options that you can explore. We'll take you through them later in this e-book.

## 7. Select a backsplash

A backsplash gives you a great opportunity to get creative with your kitchen design. Textured metal, mirrors, glass, tiles, stainless steel—the [options feel endless](#). You can choose consistency with your countertops or go for

contrast. As with worktops, we recommend looking deeply at the maintenance and cleaning aspects.

## 8. List your appliances

Make a list of everything you want your kitchen to have, considering features and costs. If you want built-in appliance, make the list as detailed as possible so provisions can be made for everything you eventually want to have. One major overarching design decision you'll need to make: freestanding or built-in? This will depend on what look and feel you're going for, e.g., retro vs. smart.

## 9. Plan your lighting scheme

When it's all complete, you'll want to present your perfect kitchen remodel in the best light! A good lighting scheme will cover:

- » **Ambient** – wall and ceiling lights to make basic functioning in the kitchen comfortable.
- » **Task** – lights such as under-unit lights to illuminate your work surfaces.
- » **Accent** – lights to draw attention to specific areas within your kitchen such as a dining area or breakfast nook.
- » **Display** – interior lights for display cabinets to showcase your favorite tableware and other such items.

Together, these lights will work to highlight certain features of your kitchen while, most significantly, improving functionality.

## 10. Decide on your kitchen window treatments

While you may feel like showing off your beautiful new kitchen, you'll also want privacy. Consider what window treatments would suit your needs and budget. Shutters and blinds are popular choices. If privacy isn't too much of a concern, you could opt for something lighter like window films.

## 11. Choose the right kitchen flooring

Food will spill on it. It'll see plenty of foot traffic every day. Heavy pots and pans are likely to fall on it periodically. We're talking about your kitchen floor and why it needs to be durable. Having second thoughts about hardwood now? Don't rule it out just yet—modern sealers can make it long-lasting. In fact, there are many new finishes and materials that will suit your kitchen flooring requirements. For example, practical, budget-friendly vinyl had a reputation for being low-quality, but luxury vinyl is now changing that. To sum up, update your knowledge of [kitchen flooring options](#)—what's possible could surprise you!

## 12. Pick your paint

As with the components above, your paint choices will also depend on the kitchen design style you choose. For example, if you're dreaming of a coastal kitchen style, gentle blues and light beige would work beautifully. If your style is more eclectic, the only rule is there are no rules – make it personal and choose what you love. An industrial style kitchen will emphasize exposed brick and unfinished concrete over painted walls.

## 13. Find the right people for the job

To execute the perfect kitchen remodel, you need a top-notch team. The best kitchen remodeling contractors will be transparent about costs, timelines, and their own expertise. We find that this transparency encourages our clients to share more ideas and questions with us. This ultimately enables us to get all the details of their dream kitchen or bathroom space right. It's essential to speak freely with your design team and contractor and have all [your questions answered](#). You should also:

- » Look at a range of their projects, e.g., best, most recent, and ongoing.
- » Assess how willing they are to detail out the project in writing.
- » Follow up with their references one-on-one.

These tips will bring you closer to finding [a team that cares](#) about your comfort and vision for your kitchen.

With so many options to choose from, decision fatigue can be a problem. However, keep in mind that this is a short-term issue—one that [we can help you](#) with. It'll all be worth it when you and your family are spending time together and exploring your culinary talents in the kitchen of your dreams!

**Read more by**

**Bath + Kitchen:**

How to plan the perfect kitchen remodel

## Explore Styles.

Settle on a basic style and aesthetic for your kitchen.

### BASIC STYLES

#### Traditional kitchens



#### Beautifully Detailed Cabinetry by Plain & Fancy, a Top-Rated Manufacturer we work with

Traditional kitchens are defined by careful detailing. They are designed for:

- » Quality
- » Warmth
- » Elegance

Because quality is a priority for traditional kitchens, they favor long-lasting natural materials, such as wood, over manufactured materials. For countertops, granite, quartz, and marble are timeless choices.

Warmth and comfort are important criteria that a traditional kitchen must meet. To achieve that softness and luxury, they use muted color palettes. Elegance and sophistication are achieved through adornment. Crown moldings, wainscoting and beaded inset cabinetry, for example, can help add tasteful embellishments to your kitchen.

At Bath+Kitchen, we often recommend traditional-style kitchens to clients with beautiful historic homes.

#### A note on 'modern' and 'contemporary' kitchens

The terms 'modern' and 'contemporary' are often used interchangeably. However, they mean very different things. Modern kitchens are aligned to the design movement in the early 20th century, with well-defined guidelines on what elements to include. Contemporary kitchens are, as the name suggests, kitchens designed based on [current trends](#). There can be overlap where modern styles inspire contemporary design, but they are two distinct types of kitchen design.





**Example of a Modern Kitchen by Belmont**

### Modern kitchens

Modern kitchens began to emerge around World War I. They were a departure from well-adorned traditional kitchens, leaning towards simpler designs instead. They prioritize:

- » Sleekness
- » Innovation
- » Boldness

Angular designs and flat surfaces give modern kitchens their sleekness. This is evident in their cabinetry, with their flush doors with smooth surfaces. This approach continues through the furniture of a modern kitchen, favoring angular over adorned. Hardware and accessories are kept to a minimum to give the sense of measured and manufactured uniformity that translates to perfection. Overall, these kitchens look elegant yet uncomplicated.

### Contemporary kitchens

These kitchens demonstrate new and evolving trends. They are generally considered to be kitchens designed for [life in the 21st century](#).

which means they factor in current requirements and preferences. They focus on:

- » Convenience
- » Functionality
- » Minimalism

Like modern kitchens, contemporary kitchens prioritize sleekness and clean lines.



### Contemporary kitchen cabinets for a B+K client

Minimalism and spaciousness are key here. Neat layouts that prefer horizontal lines elongate the space and make it look airy and open. Smart storage solutions and integrated appliances also make it easier to keep the kitchen clean and organized, which is essential to someone with a busy 21st-century lifestyle.

### Transitional kitchens

A favorite of many Bath+Kitchen clients, [transitional kitchens](#) are the perfect blend of contemporary and traditional design elements. They offer the warmth of a traditional kitchen with the sleek, functional style of a contemporary



kitchen. Our clients love being able to create their own unique look and feel by [selecting their favorite](#) traditional and contemporary elements and putting them together with our design experts.

Above is an example of a transitional design we [completed in Alexandria, Virginia](#). Notice the simple and clean lines, and how the neutral colors create a nice meeting place for the cabinets, the range, and the beautiful wood floor. This works especially well with the open design and creates a smooth continuity between the kitchen, dining room, and living room.

## AESTHETIC STYLES

After you think about the broad, basic styles you can choose—traditional, modern, contemporary, and transitional—you can start to zero in on the look you want. Here are some well-loved kitchen styles you can consider:

- » Coastal
- » Cottage
- » Craftsman

- » Eclectic
- » Farmhouse
- » French country

As you look through them, try to look for what defines them; spotting the differences between styles is a great way to learn what you like.

## COASTAL

When you see beautiful blues and greens made vibrant by bright whites, it's likely that you think of the ocean. This kitchen style is a natural fit for a beachside home, but also makes sense for anyone who loves the ocean and wants to experience a little of that coastal brightness every day.



What a [coastal kitchen](#) looks like



### Get the look

Create the right palette, using colors you see at the beach. This visual by Grande Interiors demonstrates how you can pick the right hues.

### Classic Coastal Palette by Grande Interiors

- » Natural light plays a big role in creating a coastal aesthetic. Keep things light and airy by opting for door and window styles that incorporate clear glass.
- » Crisp white walls will reflect the light beautifully and create a feeling of spaciousness. For wall, floor, countertop, and cabinetry finishes, it's important to maximize the effect of natural light. To achieve this, choose satin and gloss finishes instead of matte to reflect more light. If there are spaces that don't get enough natural light, you can add lighting that feels natural and bright. Consider adding dimmers, so you can control the brightness, depending on the time of day.
- » You can get creative with the backsplash, for example by blending ocean colors in wave-like patterns.
- » Furniture styles can vary with a coastal theme, but traditional hardwood is a great option. Choose natural stains and organic-looking finishes. Also, for cabinetry, think about whether you want a sleek modern or sturdy traditional look and choose the door faces accordingly.



### What a cottage kitchen looks like

### COTTAGE KITCHEN

Cozy and cheerful, a cottage kitchen is designed to bring you joy and comfort. Soft colors with sturdy-looking furniture and cabinetry make it a warm and welcoming space.



### Passion fruit tones by Design Seeds

### Get the look

Soft, warm, natural-looking colors tend to be the right choice for a cottage kitchen. A palette like the one above could work well.



- » Charming embellishments, light fixtures, and hardware add character to a cottage kitchen.
- » Consider going for traditional kitchen cabinetry that resembles freestanding storage cupboards from years ago.
- » When we think of a cottage kitchen, we picture a kitchen that's used well to make incredible home cooked meals. Functionality is key, so features such as a large farmhouse sink would be right at home here.
- » Open shelving creates a sense of informality, which is very important in a cottage kitchen.
- » Hardwood flooring adds warmth and sturdiness.
- » Cheerful lighting using pendant lights add both brightness and softness.

## CRAFTSMAN

These kitchens showcase natural materials, and are all about quality, convenience, and ease-of-use.



## Get the look



### Palette by Design Seeds

- » Use a palette that makes you think about experiences in nature, such as a walk in the woods:
- » Make sure that your cabinetry is top quality. Real wood is an excellent choice here. Hardwood veneers would work beautifully as well. Try rich stains and finishes that add depth.
- » Features such as a large kitchen sink are designed to be functional and stylish.
- » Most elements of a craftsman kitchen are traditional, sturdy, and clean. You can, however, get a little more creative with the lighting and the backsplashes. For example, you could opt for industrial light fittings or a [backsplash with patterned tiles](#) to create a unique look.



What an **eclectic kitchen** looks like

## ECLECTIC

Practical layouts combined with diverse design elements make eclectic kitchens unique and welcoming. Unexpected finishes and details are blended together, so there is plenty of room for creativity and expression of personal style.

### Get the look

There are no specific palettes or design choices that define an eclectic kitchen, and that's precisely the point—it's a space that you can design by combining different, often unconnected, elements that appeal to you. You can find inspiration anywhere and create your own color palette like the one below:



Palette by Design Seed

Blend bold and subtle elements to create a space that is expressive but not overwhelming.

Homedit suggests these 5 steps:

1. Build a funky kitchen island
2. Mix themes such as futuristic, rustic, and contemporary
3. Display everything
4. Pay attention to texture
5. Play with colors

## FARMHOUSE

Simplicity and rustic charm set the tone for a farmhouse kitchen. These kitchens are well-equipped to make cooking with the family comfortable and inviting.



What a **farmhouse kitchen** looks like



## Get the look

Choose soft colors that are relaxing and welcoming.



### Soft, soothing color palette

- » Include practical details such as large apron-front sinks, which can look incredibly stylish.
- » For cabinetry and flooring, choose natural materials such as wood, together with soft finishes, which make these kitchens warm and welcoming.
- » Build a kitchen island, which will help your kitchen accommodate more people when you are cooking together.
- » Instead of focusing on hiding your appliances and other things away, display them with open shelving.
- » Adding details such as shiplap will instantly give the space a rustic yet clean look.



What a **French country kitchen** looks like.

## FRENCH COUNTRY

French country and farmhouse kitchens have a lot in common, so they can be confused. They both use natural materials, rustic details, and bright whites. However, while farmhouse kitchens use defined lines and a casual style, French country kitchens are softer, with a more feminine and refined elegance.



### Get the look



#### Muted color palette by 'In Color Balance'

Choose a soft color palette that does not take attention away from elegant details on the cabinetry and other fittings, hardware, and lighting.

- » Skirted cabinetry is a good choice for a French country kitchen, and would give it a traditional look.
- » Similarly, you can use crown molding, added to the tops of cabinetry.
- » Enrich the space with rich textures, high-quality materials, and charming accessories and hardware, but keep the colors muted.

### Summing up styles: What these options suggest

1. It's important to know which basic style you love the most, so you can select the cabinetry, flooring, layout, and lighting accordingly.
2. There are suggestions but no fixed rules when it comes to palettes and overall look and feel; they can accommodate your personal preferences comfortably, as long as you follow the basic guiding principles for each.

**Read more by**  
**Bath + Kitchen:**  
Kitchen styles &  
aesthetics

# Get Updated.

## What's trending in kitchen design and cabinetry.

Many 2021 kitchen design trends emerged as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has altered how and where we spend our time. Homeowners are now showing a greater desire to invest in their homes in order to make them more comfortable to spend long periods of time in. What we use our homes for has changed, so the way we design these spaces is changing as well. We're likely to see these trends remain popular well into 2022.

### KITCHEN DESIGN TRENDS

Keep reading to see what more homeowners are choosing now.

#### 1. Open layouts

An open-plan kitchen and living room is a popular design choice for modern homes, as 2021 kitchen design trends indicate. Here, barriers such as walls and doors are eliminated and distinct functional areas are integrated into a single shared space. It can happen either by reconfiguring an existing space and merging two rooms, or by designing a single space from scratch. Multifunctional furniture is often used because it offers tremendous flexibility in such spaces.

You can use color or texture to [create different zones](#) within the space, which will suggest a

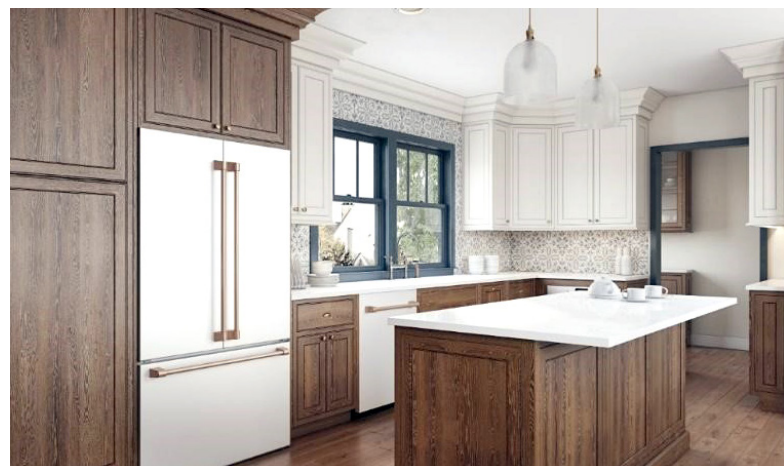
change of purpose as you move through the room. This year, NKBA predicts the popular color choices to be restorative, earthy, and deep with a touch of brightness:

#### a) Blues and greens



**Green with envy by Bath+Kitchen**

#### b) Neutral tones



**White oak and off white cabinets by Bath+Kitchen**

## c) Dark tones that suggest resiliency



Dark kitchen by Nobilia, showcasing some of their **new Environment and Design** décor options that include 13 new handles and 7 niche decors

## d) Dependable greys / concrete looking cabinets &amp; counters



Kitchen by Nobilia – **RIVA 839**, Concrete Terra grey reproduction

As you select your color palette, make sure to consider the mood you would like to create for you and your loved ones.

**2. Large islands**

We expect to see more requests for **large islands**. Since people are trying to maximize the functionality of common areas of their homes,

anything multipurpose that offers flexibility is going to be considered seriously. Islands can provide seating and storage as well as the option to incorporate some great features that serve cooks and diners alike, including:

- » Appliances such as microwaves or warming drawers
- » A sink for food prep
- » A cooktop and oven
- » A booth with a dining table
- » A display of beautiful crockery, perhaps a set you like to use just for guests



Large kitchen island, **Bath+Kitchen Design in Washington, DC**

Tip: When building a kitchen island, think ahead to future appliances and features you might want to add, so you can plan the plumbing and electrical work accordingly



### 3. Appliances: Emerging technology and aesthetics

Device charging, entertainment, and emergency power for essential appliances such as fridges are going to become more important. Many homeowners will prioritize building a smart kitchen with products that are more efficient, more precise, and safer. These are typically connected via [IoT technology](#), Bluetooth, or Wi-Fi. Consider options like:

- » Grocery ordering and inventory assistance
- » Monitors and alarms
- » Voice-activated digital assistants
- » Smart cooking devices



**Paneled / hidden appliances** specifically refrigerators and dishwashers as kitchen become more open to living rooms.

Aesthetically, stylish appliances such as [French-door refrigerators](#) will be popular.

### 4. Organic or natural materials

As people try to de-stress and find new ways to [connect with nature](#), they are incorporating



**Marble countertops & backsplash,**  
**Bath+Kitchen Design NW Washington, DC**

more organic and sustainable materials and textures into their interiors. 2021 kitchen design trends tell us that we can expect to see more stone, marble, natural wood, and earth tones.

### 5. Clean kitchen styles

Research by NKBA shows that the top [kitchen styles](#) are likely to be contemporary, transitional, organic/natural, and minimalistic. This suggests that, overall, cleaner looks will



**Contemporary Cabinets by Plain & Fancy**

be preferred to more ornate traditional styles. Keep in mind that "clean" doesn't mean dull; it can be made creative and interesting when designed well. As [Plain & Fancy](#) — a top-rated cabinetry manufacturer we work with — puts it, "modern kitchens don't have to be sterile and without detail." In the kitchen featured above, they use smooth natural wood grains, waterfall granite, and other unique details to create a kitchen they describe as "worthy of being called American Contemporary".

### 6. Modern-style countertops

In line with the kitchen styles that will be popular, kitchen countertops will also take on a [modern aesthetic](#). Solid surface countertops that are homogenous are an excellent choice for a clean look. They are also easy to maintain. Quartz will continue to be a popular choice as well.

### 7. Sinks



[Apron sink](#), which became more popular in 2021

Smart faucets and innovative sinks were noteworthy 2021 kitchen design trends, as people began upgrading to more [professional functions](#). Designers believe that both stainless steel and white single bowl will be popular, and apron or workstation sinks will dominate.

### 8. Flooring

Some popular choices this year will be hardwood, luxury vinyl plank, and tile (ceramic or porcelain).



[Luxury vinyl plank flooring](#) in this [Arlington, VA kitchen](#) by Bath+Kitchen

### 9. Lighting

Flexible and passive lighting controls are anticipated to be more popular than traditional switches. Under-cabinet lighting is expected to be prominent, as part of a sleek, contemporary look.





Contemporary lighting in a Bath+Kitchen remodel in Logan Circle.

#### 10. Windows

An important aspect of bringing the outdoors in is adding more natural light. Large windows and French doors help accomplish this. When designed well, they create a smooth transition from indoors to outdoors and a sense of openness.



Image by André François McKenzie

#### 11. Integrated entertainment or outdoor kitchens

Building on the desire for more open space, indoor-outdoor kitchens and living areas are growing in popularity. These spaces are helping many people reconnect with family, hobbies, and nature. Balancing comfort, convenience, and luxury is shaping current kitchen design trends.



Patio transformed into outside kitchenette

Some practical features to consider adding:

- » Durable outdoor sink
- » Outdoor bar or a counter that can double up as a temporary bar
- » Task lighting
- » Ice maker
- » Bins for trash, recycling, and compost, so you don't have to sort it out later
- » Dishwasher, if you have the space for it and plan to cook outdoors often



Read more from  
**Bath + Kitchen:**  
[2021 kitchen design trends.](#)

## CABINETRY TRENDS

In 2021, popular looks we're seeing are painted and wood grain, with a different color on the island. This seems to have continued from the [2020 kitchen design trends](#). All-white cabinetry is versatile and classic, but we might see a dip in its popularity this year. Designers can explore new ways to add contrast to an all-white kitchen, such as bright colored or even dark kitchen islands. Mixing finishes and adding pops of color can work well. For those looking to [change their cabinetry altogether](#), a few options could be:

- » Neutral and natural tones that are soothing
- » Greens and blues that can be uplifting
- » Deep, dark jewel tones such as black, navy, emerald green, and plum for a dramatic feel and luxurious atmosphere—modern homes today are likely to incorporate a lot of black and dark tones



Cabinetry by Belmont, a [Bath+Kitchen favorite](#).

## Current kitchen cabinetry trends – 10 trends to look out for now

### 1. Slab doors



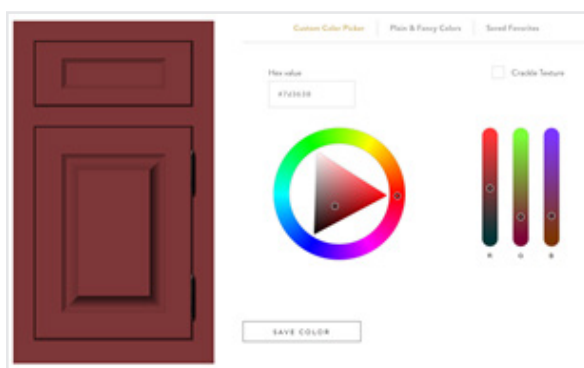
#### Contemporary cabinets with slab doors by Plain & Fancy

For [Plain & Fancy](#), a top-rated cabinet manufacturer we work with, vintage cabinetry was the top-selling style. In 2020, those dropped to 5%. Instead, their customers are choosing slab doors. Here, you can see white acrylic cabinetry in full overlay, creating a very clean and bright look. On the base and wall cabinetry are slab doors that enhance this clean, contemporary aesthetic. For warmth and contrast, the designers chose flat panel doors in walnut with a natural finish for the island and accent wall. This is a great way to add character and uniqueness to your new kitchen while still maintaining sleekness.

### 2. White and custom color finishes

White and off-white finishes have been in demand for a while, and Plain & Fancy expects them to remain favorites even as other options

gain popularity. Of these, their [Cascade White](#) finish has been the biggest winner. One door style in a white finish that has been doing well is their [Vogue](#) door style. Plain & Fancy also believes custom color will continue to be a popular option. They are committed to helping their customers “dream in color” and choose from their extensive gallery of colors or even create their own shade. We highly recommend testing out their Custom Color Picker to find shades you love (which you can then add to your ‘Saved Favorites’). Here’s a snapshot of what it looks like:



**Custom Color Picker by Plain & Fancy**

We love it when our customers come to us with an exciting color option and an openness to explore interesting palettes. Our designers enjoy hearing about your personal preferences so they can dive deeper into customization and help you create something fabulous.

### 3. White oak

Plain & Fancy notes that, from top-grade cuts to the rustics that were once considered low-grade, all varieties of white oak will stay in demand. They predicted this popularity a few

years ago, introducing 14 beautiful white oak finishes in 2018.

How do you know if it's the right option for you? Plain & Fancy Purchasing Manager Rick Yohn says, “it is a great look for those customers that appreciate the natural beauty of wood.”

### 4. Frameless cabinetry

While designing their dream kitchens with us, many of our clients are drawn to [Bellmont's Euro-style](#), built-to-order frameless cabinets. They're certainly not alone in choosing this contemporary style over traditional framed cabinetry.

**Framed cabinetry:** In this cabinetry style, the door hinges are attached directly to the frame, which adds strength and sturdiness. Rails and stiles are used to create a face frame, similar to a picture frame. One of the great things about frameless cabinetry is that it offers flexibility with adjustable shelves and the option to use many different doors. These cabinets work well with a more traditional style.

**Frameless cabinetry:** Instead of securing door hinges onto a frame as you would with framed cabinetry, they are secured directly to the inside of the box. That way, all you see after installation is the flat door and drawer fronts. This creates a sleek, simple aesthetic that works well with a more contemporary style. The two main reasons homeowners today are choosing frameless cabinetry are:

- » **A cleaner look**
- » **Better accessibility and space.**

As Belmont explains it, "the full-overlay, flush-fitting doors, and drawers offer unobstructed interior access, giving you more storage space and organizing options than traditional face frame cabinets."

### 5. Wall-to-wall cabinetry and made-to-measure kitchen design



Because of the growing preference for open layouts and more integration of indoor and outdoor spaces, kitchens need to be easy to clean and reorganize.

[Wall-to-wall cabinetry](#) makes it easier to keep your kitchen looking neat. It gives you freedom from worrying about keeping open shelves tidy. On a busy day, you can still pack everything away into your spacious kitchen cabinets and have your kitchen looking clutter-free.

Nobilia's flexible height system (above) for cabinetry makes that possible, offering four different plinth heights and three worktop heights. This helps them create an ergonomically optimized activity height for a

variety of activities, such as meal preparation, cooking, and washing dishes.

### 6. Contrasting finishes

If you want your kitchen to reflect world-class contemporary design, look no further than Nobilia's [fronts and trends](#). These reflect the biggest 2021 kitchen cabinetry trends to look out for. Take a look at what's new at Nobilia to see how they pair different finishes to create stunning kitchens:

#### » Warm Concrete Shade

Nobilia describes concrete as the epitome of modern industrial style. As customers lean increasingly towards a more natural, pared-down, organic feel, they offer this new, warm shade of Terra grey for their RIVA range as a "contemporary interpretation of cool coziness". The dark wall unit offers contrast.



**RIVA 839 - CONCRETE TERRA GREY REPRODUCTION**





### RIVA 840 - WALNUT REPRODUCTION

#### » Elegant Wood Appearance

Nobilia's new walnut décor embodies pure elegance and caters to the current demand for a more natural feel. The matte black carcass pairs beautifully with it to create a sophisticated look.

#### » Cottage-style cosiness

Their NORDIC doors deliver the cottage-style coziness with a new framed door in a white, genuine lacquer design. The result: Fronts with a minimalist look, inspired by popular Scandinavian style. The wood aesthetic on the island and backsplash add a touch of traditional comfort.



### NORDIC 782 - LACQUER, HONED WHITE

#### » Glass appearance with wow effect

Nobilia's new ARTIS line offers fronts and upright panels made of polymer glass. ARTIS thus offers a virtually unlimited range of products. The satin matte finish glass appearance achieves a stunning depth effect and sets the scene for exquisite designs in kitchens, bathrooms, and living areas. In the kitchen below, the flawless glass finish contrasts beautifully with the wood aesthetic.



### RIVA 840 - WALNUT REPRODUCTION

Nobilia demonstrates that the possibilities are endless when it comes to creating a contemporary kitchen that expresses your individual preferences and taste. We also love how they're changing perceptions of [laminated cabinetry](#), showing how beautiful, high-quality, and versatile they can be.

## 7. Clean lines and minimalist design

Clean, contemporary kitchen design is a clear winner when you look at 2021 kitchen cabinetry trends. Bellmont delivers this with their [VERO series](#), inspired by Italian minimalist design. It boasts a true absence of handles that emphasizes clean lines and soothing symmetry for an elegant, harmonious look. What goes into achieving that? There are three key features:

- » **Linear rail technology:** Bellmont's sleek and simple integrated rail system provides a slender, unseen channel for easy access to drawers. This gives it a clean, crisp appearance. Without interference from handles and hardware, your kitchen becomes more efficient, making it inviting to do more there.
- » **Clean lines:** Precision-cut frameless cabinets give you straight lines, minimal gaps, and pleasing geometric patterns. This makes visual transitions between materials and color palettes smoother.
- » **Uninterrupted access:** Without handles and hardware, you can focus on the real stars—the door styles and complex finishes. It reinforces the lack of clutter while enhancing the convenience of the handle-free frameless design.

## 8. Sleek integrated finger-pulls

Another way to allow the beautiful cabinetry faces to shine unobstructed is integrated finger-pulls, offered by top manufacturers such as [Dura Supreme](#). They offer two sleek and sophisticated Integrated Pulls, now available

with their Crestwood and Bria Cabinetry.

These built-in hardware options are perfect for contemporary and transitional designs and are available with a beautiful, brushed aluminum finish.

## 9. Recessed design lighting



### Design ideas for recesses by Nobilia

There are so many incredible [recess design](#) ideas to consider for your new kitchen. Nobilia, for example, creates decorative and functional wall views with elegant panels, which you can see above.

Nobilias niche cladding selection is gorgeous, artistic, and unique, and would look stunning when highlighted by recessed lighting. This is something we expect to see more of in future kitchen cabinetry trends.

Here are two valuable tips from Nobilia to make sure your lighting is doing your kitchen, including your new cabinetry, justice:

Ensure that work area lighting is uniform and shadow-free as far as possible in order to optimize day-to-day tasks in the kitchen

In addition to general room lighting, create additional small islands of light, mainly near the seating areas in the kitchen, for a homely and comfortable ambiance—thanks to efficient LED technology and modern control options, this can be realized simply and cost-effectively

#### **10. Walk-in pantry**

Walk-in pantries are great especially if you love to cook and/or have a large family. For starters, they offer more storage space with floor-ceiling cubbies, shelves, and drawers. The generous space means things are easier to organize which in turn means they are easier to access and use. All of this can make cooking more appealing and can even minimize food wastage when ingredients get used instead of lying forgotten in the back of a cabinet or drawer. When planned well, your walk-in pantry can accommodate certain appliances that

don't have a permanent spot on your kitchen counters such as a juicer or slow cooker.

Looking at these kitchen cabinetry trends tells us that homeowners today want to create contemporary spaces that prioritize comfort and ease. Clean looks and even cleaner design will make your kitchen efficient, organized, and a joy to spend time in!

**Read more by**  
**Bath + Kitchen:**  
[2021 kitchen cabinetry](#)  
[trends to refresh your home](#)



## *"Is laminate cabinetry really better for my kitchen than solid wood?"*

Short answer—yes. Especially if you, like most homeowners in the US today, want to create contemporary-style spaces with a sleek and elegant look and feel. More and more of our clients are choosing laminate cabinetry for a number of reasons and are thrilled with the results and experience. However, many of them have had their doubts in the beginning, which they discussed with us during [our consultation process](#). Let's address some of those misconceptions and show you why laminate cabinetry can be a great choice for your new kitchen.

### TOP 3 MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT LAMINATE CABINETRY

While discussing laminate [kitchen cabinetry](#) with us, here are some concerns clients bring up:

**Misconception #1:** They're cheaper than solid wood, so they must be poor quality



**EASYTOUCH 963, Rust red ultra matt by Nobilia**

One reason laminate cabinetry is cheaper than hardwood is that it uses engineered materials such as MDF for the core, which can bring the costs down. But this isn't a compromise on quality—MDF has some advantages over solid wood. For example, it doesn't warp the way wood does when it comes into contact with moisture. Then, there is the surface, which can be made from high-quality materials with a luxe finish. We can assure you no one's thinking "budget" when they see some of the exquisite laminate cabinetry made by world-class manufacturers such as Nobilia.



**Misconception #2:** They don't look as beautiful as hardwood cabinetry

While this is a matter of taste and preference, we believe laminate cabinetry's limitless range of options almost guarantees you'll find exactly what you're looking for to create your perfect kitchen. You can even find laminates that give you the color uniformity, and ease of maintenance of natural hardwood, such as [Bellmont Cabinets' Textured Laminate](#), pictured here to the right. They offer so many colors and finishes to explore that anything you envision for your kitchen can be brought to life with high-quality laminate cabinetry!

**Misconception #3:** They won't last as long as hardwood cabinetry



**SPEED 288, Black concrete reproduction by Nobilia**

Unlike natural wood cabinetry, laminate cabinetry has innovation on its side. Research and the testing of new materials are making it possible to create everything from flawless high-gloss to perfectly-textured finishes that are scratch-resistant and easy to maintain. Because of this, your laminate cabinetry can look brand new for years.

Laminate cabinetry will give you plenty of space for creativity and expression, and that's why our designers are always happy to take our clients through all the options available to them



## Consider Costs.

Design choices that impact remodel costs the most.

As you think about what you want, it's important to consider the costs that accompany those design choices.

### Cabinetry costs

When you plan your budget for your kitchen remodel, we suggest making high-quality cabinetry a top priority. Kitchen cabinetry costs may feel high, but it's important to look at the big picture—your cabinets have the power to shape the look and feel of your kitchen while

also improving resale value. It's an investment and, several years of experience and many happy clients later, we can help you [plan it to perfection!](#)

Kitchen cabinetry costs surprise many first-time remodelers. It can be very expensive and will take up a significant percentage of your kitchen remodel costs. The good news is, if you plan well, you can find the perfect cabinetry for your budget. Knowing your options will help you



make better choices that fit your priorities. To help you find the most suitable aspects to focus your expenditure on, we've put together the different choices you will need to make while selecting your cabinetry.

### 1. Installing new cabinetry vs. refacing existing cabinetry

Cabinetry has one of the biggest parts to play in creating the look of your kitchen. Some homeowners opt to simply [reface their cabinets](#). This entails steps such as covering cabinet boxes and sides, adding new cabinet fixtures, and installing new drawer fronts. Refacing costs less than getting brand-new cabinetry.

Still, most kitchen remodels involve a change of cabinetry because homeowners want to update the kitchen's aesthetic and improve functionality with new features and storage ideas. This decision will mean costs for removal, new cabinetry, and installation. Unless you are quite skilled, get a professional to do this

for you, or you could damage your walls. For safety reasons, cabinet installation is best left to qualified professionals as well. This can be around [40-50%](#) of the kitchen cabinetry costs. [Full-service remodel firms](#) such as Bath+Kitchen will take care of the entire process for you, from design to installation.

### 2. Custom or semi-custom vs. stock cabinetry

[Custom cabinetry](#) tends to be the most desirable choice for many reasons, closely followed by semi-custom. Stock cabinets work well for smaller budgets, but you are likely to find a limited selection of materials and styles there. That's why our clients prefer the custom and semi-custom options we offer via top-rated manufacturers that prioritize quality and variety, such as [Bellmont](#), [Dura Supreme](#), and [Plain & Fancy](#). Take a look at the snapshot below for a quick summary of options, quality, customization available, and typical lead times.

**Please note: Lead times are subject to change**

## SNAPSHOT — Bath + Kitchen Cabinetry Lines

### Adelphi Kitchens & Cabinetry – Robeson, PA

With time-tested construction methods, Adelphi offers lasting, high-quality custom cabinetry.

- » Lead times: 9 to 11 weeks
- » Full custom line, premium
- » Frameless lines:
  - » [Ridgewood](#): all plywood, custom, 70+ door styles
  - » [Woodbrier](#): particle board, custom, 70+ door styles

- » **Brier Select:** budget friendly 15% less than Ridgewood and 22% less than inset.  
Only 3 door styles available, limited species and finishes

### **Bellmont Cabinetry – Sumner, WA**

For beautiful cabinets at an incredible price, Belmont is a great option. Being semi-custom, they give you the same great options as custom cabinetry for more competitive prices.

- » **Lead times:** 11 to 22 weeks
- » Frameless only with 4 series covering stock, semi-custom, custom, and Euro / handleless: [1300](#), [1600](#), [1900](#), [Vero](#)

### **Dura Supreme – Howard Lake, MN**

They continually invest in improving manufacturing, ordering processes, and forecasting design trends. Their custom line is a mid-range line that offers many great options.

- » **Lead times:** 16 to 17 weeks
- » Popular Custom
- » Framed line: [Crestwood](#)
- » Frameless line: [Bria](#)

### **Marfa – Skokie, IL**

With hundreds of materials, colors, and styles in stock, Marfa makes getting the kitchen of your dreams possible in a short amount of time.

- » **Lead times** 9 to 11 weeks
- » Frameless cabinetry only, offering high-end laminate cabinetry with integrated under cabinet lighting

### **Plain & Fancy Custom Cabinetry – Schaefferstown, PA**

They're the ultimate in luxury custom kitchen cabinetry; every cabinet is handmade to be perfect for your home.

- » Lead times: 19 to 26 weeks
- » Full custom line, premium
- » Framed inset construction
- » Frameless line: [Medley](#)
- » Six of the most popular Plain & Fancy cabinet door styles are Apollo, Contempo, Quaker, Shaker, Vogue, and Vintage.

### **nobilis – Germany**

While they don't do custom sizing, they offer stock to semi-custom lines. Even without full-custom cabinetry, their range of options is so vast that you're sure to find cabinetry that suits your kitchen's aesthetic.

- » Lead time 16 to 17 weeks
- » Frameless only, stock cabinet line with limited ability to modify
- » World's largest manufacturer of European cabinetry producing 3,600 kitchens per day
- » Offers well made laminate counters and backsplash

### **Waypoint Living Spaces – Winchester, VA**

Waypoint cabinetry gives you the benefits of stock – lower cost and lead time – it does not compromise on quality.

- » Lead time: 16+ weeks
- » Stock cabinet line
- » Framed full overlay

### **3. Natural wood vs. engineered materials**

You can expect engineered materials such as MDF and particleboard to cost less than solid wood. There are some excellent MDF doors out there for you to choose from that are high-quality and beautifully-designed. These often look new for longer than some solid wood doors do.

If you love the classic look of solid wood, consider factors such as grain, color, and construction. Also, you'll find that each wood species comes with its own price. Oak and Hickory can be more affordable than Maple or Cherry. Here are some popular choices:



- » Black walnut
- » White oak
- » Hickory
- » Birch
- » Pine
- » Red oak
- » Hard maple
- » Cherry
- » Ash

#### 4. Traditional vs. Contemporary door styles

There are different [basic kitchen styles](#) you can opt for such as traditional, transitional, contemporary, and modern. For traditional and transitional kitchens, raised panels express the desired aesthetic well. These kitchens favor detail so cleaner styles wouldn't have the right impact. These more ornate or decorative door styles will cost more than slab doors, which are suited to contemporary and modern kitchens.

#### 5. Glaze vs. laminate

Cabinet finishes vary considerably in terms of cost. Glazed doors can offer a beautiful vintage look but can be much more expensive than a laminate. That said, there are a wide variety of laminates to choose from today, ranging in quality and price. Explore [Bellmont's door finish gallery](#) to get a sense of how many options there are and what [kitchen aesthetic](#) they're best-suited to

#### 6. Drawer base vs. standard base

Drawer base cabinets are more expensive than standard base cabinets.

#### 7. Framed vs. Frameless

Framed cabinets work well with more traditional kitchens and can cost around \$500-1000 less than frameless cabinetry. If you want a sleek

aesthetic that's similar to a lot of contemporary European styles, frameless is the way to go.

#### 8. Made in the USA vs. cheaper imports

Considering several crucial factors such as quality, design, aesthetic, safety, longevity, and ecological impact, we highly recommend choosing cabinetry manufactured here in the US. There are many cheap alternatives available today that can even be ordered online, but they come with their own price. Many of them are low-quality and won't last. In addition, there are potential health and safety risks. Their negative impact on the environment is an important consideration as well. At Bath+Kitchen, we work exclusively with top-rated US cabinet manufacturers to ensure you always get quality cabinetry that is safe for your home. We take the time to study quality carefully and are transparent with our clients about every detail of the cabinetry they choose.

#### Countertop costs

While installation costs will be difficult to control, material selection is where you can shape your kitchen countertop costs. Meaning, what you choose will drive the price up or down. To give you a basic idea, here are the [price ranges](#) you can expect, excluding installation:

- » **Budget** – \$10-\$50 per square foot plus installation
- » **Mid-range** – \$60-\$90 per square foot
- » **High-end** – Starts at around \$90 per square foot

What materials should you choose for your countertops?

The possibilities are endless, but we've put together a list of the most popular choices based on what our clients have been interested in.

### 1. Dekton – Ultracompact surfaces

Price point about 25-40% higher than quartz

Heat-resistant and virtually impenetrable, Dekton is a sophisticated blend of the raw materials used to produce the very latest in glass and porcelain as well as the highest quality quartz work surfaces. These ultra-compact surfaces are made using Sinterized Particle Technology to create a revolutionary material and a leading product. Their thinner 1-2cm slabs fit beautifully in a cleaner, contemporary kitchen. For a mitered look, thicker options are available. Dekton's advantages include:

- » High UV resistance
- » Highly scratch-resistant
- » Resistant to stains
- » High resistance to fire and heat
- » Resistant to abrasion
- » Resistant to ice and thawing
- » Color stability

### 2. Natural stone and top-quality marbles

- » Common slabs such as Carrara – \$45-75 per square foot
- » Premium slabs such as Calacatta and Portoro – up to \$300 per square foot.



Image source: [hgtv.com](http://hgtv.com)

#### » Standard thickness: 3 cm

The luxurious look and feel of marble is tough to beat. It also has some practical qualities that homeowners enjoy. For example, if you're someone who loves to bake, cold marble can be an excellent surface for kneading dough.

Marble countertops are, however, [high-end](#) and can also be high-maintenance, requiring sealers periodically to preserve their beautiful aesthetic. If you are happy to invest in maintaining them, natural stone or marble is a stunning choice.

### 3. Wood

- » Standard quality, solid wood –  
\$60-100 with labor
- » Unusual species, solid wood – up to \$200

Particleboard core with hardwood veneers – a more practical and affordable choice, available in Bath+Kitchen's [cabinetry lines](#) by Plain & Fancy, Dura Supreme and Bellmont. They offer wood tops with a particle board or plywood core, with thickness options of ¾" and 1 ½". These tops can be painted, stained (veneer), or laminate.

Dura Supreme's tops offer a number of edge profile options. When ordering these, you will need to specify the overall size (including applied solid stock or molding) as well as the cross-grain dimension before the width. Your order should indicate edge height x depth (cross-grain) x width (with the grain). For example, WT1-1/2" (edge height) x 25" (cross-grain) x 48" (with the grain).

A beautiful and timeless option, solid wood countertops are still loved by many homeowners. However, keep in mind that different species of wood can work differently in a kitchen, so it's important to consult an expert. Even when you choose well, wood can be a tricky surface to maintain. Like marble, staying on top of it is key.

### 4. Quartz

- » Plain – \$45-55 per square foot
- » More color – \$55-65 per square foot

- » With a look similar to Calacatta and Carrara – \$75 per square foot
- » Standard thickness: 3cm

[The Spruce](#) describes quartz (not solid quartz) as "a form of engineered stone, made from ground-up particles of stone bound together with plastic resins". On average, it costs around \$40-100 per square foot. For homeowners who want the look of natural stone at a lower price point and without all that maintenance, quartz is a great option.

### 5. Laminate countertops

On average, these cost between 25-50% less than quartz or natural stone countertops.

**Note:** With laminate countertops, a flush mount or top mount sink is required. Undermount sinks will not work.

At Bath+Kitchen, we love Nobilia's laminate worktops which, interestingly, make incredible backsplashes or "[niche cladding](#)", pictured below.

They come in 38 mm and 16 mm (slim line). Unlike natural stone or quartz, these don't require 1-2 weeks to be measured and fabricated. They're also very easy to install—





both countertop and backsplash—and this can be done right after your kitchen cabinets are installed. Here, the countertops and backsplash can match or compliment your cabinet finishes for a cohesive look.

**Note:** Nobilia's quartz tops are not available in North America at this time.

## 6. Stainless steel

**On average – \$60 – \$100 for the materials, \$70 – \$130 with installation.**

If a professional kitchen is what you dream of, consider stainless steel countertops. They are non-porous, easy to clean, and send the message that you take your culinary endeavors seriously!

## 7. Concrete

**On average, \$50 – \$100 for the materials, \$60 – \$130 with installation**

Poured concrete countertops need to be made by experts who can guarantee a flawless finish. They lend beautifully to a modern aesthetic and look very impressive and unique. Of course, there is the risk of cracks to consider. That's why it's essential to get a professional opinion on these before you move forward with this choice.

## 8. Recycled materials

**On average, \$10-70 for the materials, \$20-100 with installation.**

These countertops are typically made with paper, glass slabs, and glass tiles. They signal creativity and innovation, as well as eco-consciousness. Reclaimed wood is another option in this space. Of course, it will require the maintenance of any other solid wood countertop.

When we work with clients on their kitchen or bath, one key decision we guide them through is edge profile. There are multiple edge profiles to choose from, such as these ones from [Silestone](#):

- » Straight Beveled
- » Basic Eased
- » Bullnose
- » Ogee
- » Mitred
- » Demi-bullnose



Most of our clients choose the Basic Eased edge shown above, which appears square with a slightly eased top edge while maintaining the surface's thickness.

**Tip:** If aspects of organic materials such as marble and wood appeal to you, but you're not too keen on the maintenance, consider adding small pieces strategically. You could have a marble section for working with dough, for example, or an inbuilt solid wood butcher's block-style chopping board. The rest of your kitchen can use an easy-to-maintain option. This kind of selective placement could lower your kitchen countertop costs.

## Other factors that impact kitchen countertop costs

### » DIY vs. installation (labor)

While using low-cost materials such as tile, you can go the DIY route if you have the required skills. It gets trickier if you're using high-end materials such as marble and natural stone for many reasons. One of these is simply the weight; since most slabs weigh too much for one person to move, it is better and safer to hire a pro. Also, when investing in a good-quality countertop, you don't want damage or improper installation to ruin its finish. That's why choosing a professional is your best bet. This can cost you between \$10-30 per square foot for labor on average, which varies by location.

### » Removal of the existing countertop

As explained, it's best to work with a pro, especially if your countertops are natural stone or other high-quality materials. It will require cutting the silicon adhesive, removing the backsplash, and [a few other steps](#).

### » Cabinet preparation

Ensuring that your cabinets are [in good condition](#) is important for the maintenance of your countertops. If your cabinets aren't level, they could cause pressure points that may eventually break the countertops, particularly natural stone. Professionals will make sure:

- The surfaces are level
- The surfaces have enough supports

One approach is to redo your cabinetry together with your countertops because

replacing both at the same time allows you to correct any possible issues. Another approach is to do this as part of a full kitchen remodel. If you're not sure what's best for your kitchen, Bath+Kitchen's design experts can help.

### » Sanding, polishing, and sealing

These will depend on the materials you've chosen, and your remodel company or contractor should be in a good position to choose the right options. The finishing and maintenance of the surfaces will add to your kitchen countertop costs.

## Has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted kitchen remodel costs?

Yes, starting with the costs of lumber and building materials, which are changing rapidly. Prepare yourself for sticker shock. If you're replacing all materials in a 200-square-foot kitchen—L-shape with an island—you can expect to spend \$65,000 to \$90,000. A luxury kitchen will range from \$110,000 to \$150,000 or higher.

Instead of compromising on a kitchen you really want and later regretting it, you could [consider financing](#), especially because rates are low now. This could be a good idea even if you have the cash. To create a kitchen you'll love—and one that will last—consider how much better off you will be if you spend the right amount now, rather than trying to cut corners and have issues come up quite quickly.

## Estimate Well.

Set yourself up for a smooth remodel with accurate measurements and time-line expectations.

### MEASURE YOUR KITCHEN

How well you measure your kitchen can be a factor in how smoothly your kitchen remodel goes. If you don't get your measurements right, your design won't come to life as expected. Because it's so important, many of our clients request Bath+Kitchen's Measurement Services, available with our Standard and Ultra Kitchen [Design Services](#) packages. This prevents issues such as:

- » Gaps between pieces (e.g., between countertop and stove).
- » Not enough space to accommodate certain features comfortably, such as a kitchen island

Keep in mind that if you don't measure your kitchen correctly, you may be able to fit everything you wanted into your kitchen space, but it won't be a perfect fit. Accuracy is essential while preparing for a remodel. It makes for a better experience, which is why one of our custom cabinet lines has even developed a special system for flexibility and ease-of-use. Proper measurements help your kitchen

designer work out the best way to create a kitchen for you that functions seamlessly and looks fantastic.

When our designers at Bath+Kitchen meet with a new client, getting a clear picture of the current kitchen helps them make their best recommendations for the space. To [plan the perfect kitchen remodel](#), we offer guidance on measuring the space and compiling ideas. Once we have a clear picture of what you're looking for and the space we'll be working with, we can get to work.

**Read more by**

**Bath + Kitchen:**

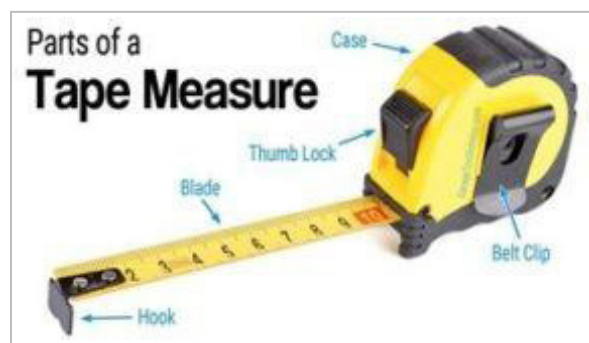
[What a kitchen remodel timeline typically looks like](#)



Try these tips on measuring your kitchen accurately to prepare for your kitchen remodel!

## What you will need

### 1. Tape measure



Tape measure, image from [garagetooladvisor.com](http://garagetooladvisor.com)

Chances are, you know [how to use a tape measure](#). You've probably used one for various projects around the house, but here are a few tips to make it easier:

**Make friends with the lock button:** While you may be able to take quick measurements by keeping the tape extended, the lock button will improve accuracy and also allow you to pause to note your measurements down comfortably.

**Try out the belt clip:** This one's straightforward; use it to avoid a tape measure hunt in the middle of mapping out your kitchen!

**Use the hook tab:** Where possible, hook the tape onto whatever you're measuring, so you can check if everything is aligned before you note down a measurement. When used together with the lock button, you can double check each measurement to make sure it's accurate before moving on to the next one.

Get familiar with the tape measure marks: Many tape measures have lines/marks of various lengths to indicate units of measurement. If you haven't done so yet, look closely at the little lines between every inch on the tape. This varies, but you may find marks for  $\frac{1}{16}$ ",  $\frac{1}{8}$ ",  $\frac{1}{4}$ ",  $\frac{1}{2}$ ", and 1". Some even have a black arrow for every foot. Keeping this in mind can make it easier to count as you measure.

### 2. Straightedge

You'll need one to draw the layout of your current kitchen, indicating measurements.

### 3. Graph paper

Along with written measurements, a graph or grid paper is a great way to help explain your current kitchen's layout to your designer. Of course, your remodel team will do their own measurements, but greater accuracy from the get-go can only make things easier! Get started with these tips:

**Use our free graph paper at the end of this e-book to measure your kitchen.**

- » Measure the perimeter of the room to frame your drawing.
- » Based on this, decide on your scale key and make a note of it. For example, you could decide that every square represents 5 inches. You can then create a drawing to scale.

### 4. Pencil(s)

A simple pencil and eraser will get the job done. However, feel free to use colored pencils or markers to make your drawing more detailed.

## A few general tips on measuring your kitchens

1. Measure clockwise: Start at the top left corner of your drawing and then start measuring clockwise, marking all the measurements clearly.
2. Label walls, windows, and doors with numbers and codes: Add descriptions and labels to facilitate your discussion with your designer.
3. Find the center of all permanent features: This will help you measure items such as windows, doors, big appliances, as well as plumbing and electrical components.
4. Measure horizontally and vertically: Take horizontal measurements from halfway up your walls. Vertical measurements are important as well, where you can note the total height as well as a breakdown of measurements. For example, if measuring a window, you can measure from the floor to the window trim, then window height, and finally from the top of the window to the ceiling. You can add these up and check if it matches the total height of that wall. Cross-checking measurements like this will improve accuracy.
5. Include the trim for windows and doors: When you measure windows and doors, include the trim or frame in your measurements.

A few general tips on measuring your kitchens

### What to measure

Once you've put together your supplies, you can move on to measuring and drawing.

### Step 1: Create a floor plan

Keeping in mind your scale key, draw the perimeter of your room. Everything else can be detailed out from there. Getting the perimeter right is important because it lets the designer know how much space they're working with. Next, mark the windows, doors, and archways. Be sure to indicate which way they open, and whether they lead outside or into another part of the house. This will give your kitchen designer a sense of the basic usable space, the shape of your kitchen, and whether or any part of the kitchen can be opened out.

### Step 2: Create a wall plan

Measure the exact length of each wall. To do this right, measure the length in 3 places:

- » Along the floor
- » Halfway up the wall
- » At the ceiling

Why measure the same thing thrice?

For the most part, walls are not perfectly square. This means that the three measurements you just took can be off by a few inches. Use the widest of the three measurements for your wall plan. This is what you'll use to order your kitchen cabinetry to avoid any awkward gaps. It's a good idea to inform your kitchen designer about all three measurements, to give them a full picture of what they're working with.

Your designer will also need to know what's on the other side of each wall, so note that down as well. For example, if the living room is on the other side of one wall, you could label it "interior wall" and write "living room" outside it. Similarly, you can label a wall an "exterior wall" if the other side of it is the outside of your house.

### Step 3: Make note of any obstacles

Think of this as telling your kitchen designer more about your walls and what's connected to them. Some items to note are:

- » Gas and electricity meters
- » Boilers
- » Radiators
- » Extractor fans
- » Appliances
- » Water stopcock
- » Plug sockets
- » Light switches
- » TV sockets

Measure their width from their widest point, and mark their position on the wall. Of course, you may need professional help to get some of these, but try to identify as many as you can.

### Step 4: Measure the windows

While measuring windows, be sure to include the trim. Start measuring from the top left corner of your drawing and go clockwise.

- » Measure the distance between that corner and the edge of the window trim and mark that on the diagram.

- » Then, measure the width of the window and mark that. Label it 'Window #1'.
- » Keep going clockwise until every window has been marked.
- » Then, get the height and width of each window.
- » Also measure vertically, noting the distance between the floor and the bottom of each window and the distance between the top of the window and the ceiling.

The objective here is to get the size and placement of all windows.

### Step 5: Measure the doorways

This is similar to the way you measured windows. Again, start measuring from the top left corner of your drawing.

- » Measure the distance between that corner, halfway up the wall, and the edge of the door trim. Mark that on the diagram.
- » Then, measure the width of the door and mark that. Label it 'Door #1'.
- » If there's more than one door on a wall, measure again from the left corner to the edge of the second door's trim; i.e., don't just measure between doors.
- » Keep going clockwise until every door has been marked.
- » Then, get the height and width of each door. For the height, measure from the floor up to the top edge of the door trim. Note these details down, with additional diagrams if possible.



### Step 6: Pipes, vents, outlets, switches

When you discuss your new kitchen with your designer, you'll probably talk about new appliances and features you'd love to have in your dream kitchen. To tell you what's possible and what will require rewiring or replumbing, a kitchen designer needs to know the dimensions and positions of the key items. You can share the locations of:

- » Electrical switches
- » Sockets
- » Drainpipes
- » Venting ductwork

As with measuring doors and windows, start in the left-hand corner. On every wall, identify the plumbing and electrical items. Measure from the corner to the center of the item and mark it on your drawing.

### Step 7: Final check

Now it's time to check if your measurements are accurate. If you have a rectangular room, it would follow that parallel walls are the same length. You could check if the measurements match and measure again if something seems off. Take a look around your kitchen and compare it to your drawing to see if you've represented it correctly.

## FINALLY, GET A SENSE OF THE TIMELINE

The remodel process looks a little different for everyone, but the kitchen remodel timeline estimates we've shared should help you decide when to start the process. Here's a summary:

Activity	Time estimate
Compile ideas and setting goals	At your own pace
Select a contractor	At your own pace
Evaluate the existing kitchen	At your own pace
Finalize the kitchen design	1-4 weeks
Building permits	Location-dependent
Select and order materials	1-3 months
Demolition	2-3 days
Plumbing and rewiring	2-5 days
Walls, doors, and windows	2-3 days
Flooring	1-2 days
Cabinetry, countertops, and fixtures	1 week
New appliances	1-2 days

## Has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted kitchen remodel timelines?

Significantly! We're seeing extended lead times. For example, the lead times of most cabinet lines have gone from 4-8 weeks to 15-22+ weeks. Lead times for appliances have extended as well, and have become unreliable. So, it's important to leave plenty of time for materials to arrive to factor in any delays. For more insights, take a look at our blog on ['The Remodeling Industry in 2022: Trends & Predictions'](#).



## You're all set!

Anyone who has been through a remodel will tell you that you're in for a challenging time. But you can make it less stressful by planning ahead, considering everyone involved, and focusing on the joy the new space will bring you.

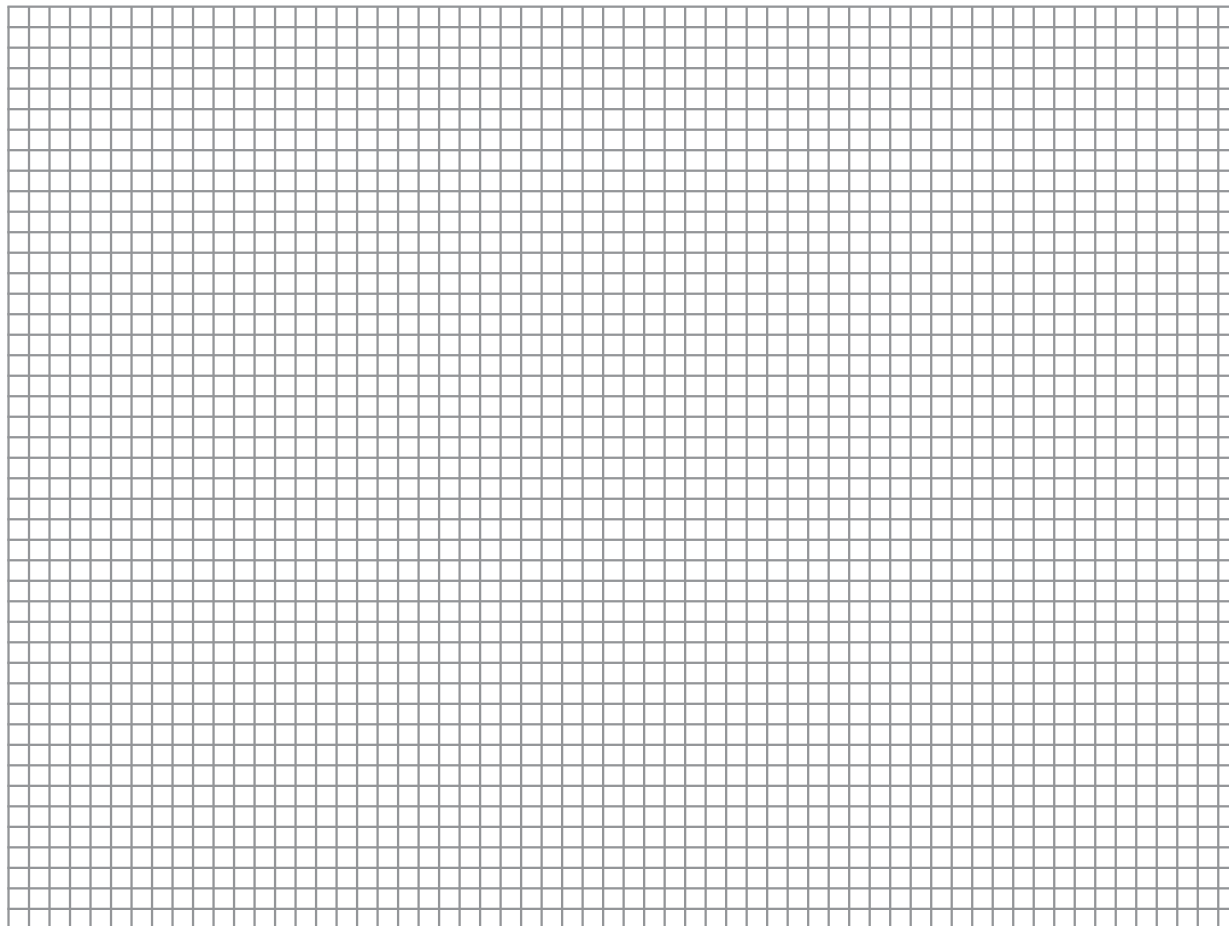
Communicate clearly with your family about what to expect and how you will handle the unexpected. Once you do this, we believe a good contractor should be able to get you through the rest. That's why we ensure our clients can sit back and relax as we create the bathrooms and kitchens they've always wanted. To learn more about our work and process, **get in touch** here.

# BATH + KITCHEN

www.bathpluskitchen.com

## TELL US ABOUT YOUR CURRENT KITCHEN

In order to fully understand the scope of your project, dimensional plans of your existing kitchen must be brought to your first planning meeting. A dimensional plan can be obtained from your contractor, or can be drawn out with the grid below.



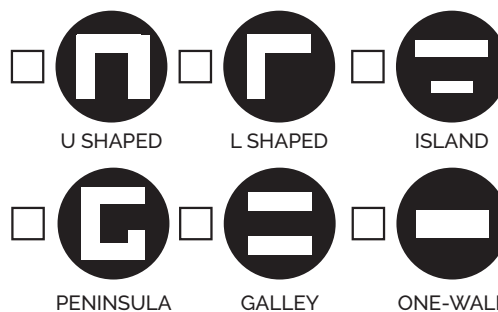
DON'T FORGET TO INDICATE THESE ITEMS IN YOUR DIAGRAM:

- LENGTH OF ROOM
- WIDTH OF ROOM
- WINDOWS
- DOORWAYS

IF YOU KNOW WHERE THESE ITEMS WILL GO, FEEL FREE TO MARK THEM ON YOUR DIAGRAM:

- PLACEMENT OF APPLIANCES (STOVE, RANGE, DISHWASHER, ETC.)
- SINKS

SELECT YOUR CURRENT KITCHEN LAYOUT:



## KITCHEN PLANNING GUIDE



## Key Sources

- Apartment Therapy <https://www.apartmenttherapy.com/>
- Architectural Digest <https://www.architecturaldigest.com/>
- Artzine <https://artzine.com/>
- Bankrate <https://www.bankrate.com/>
- Bath+Kitchen <https://bathpluskitchen.com/>
- Beko <https://www.beko.com/>
- Bellmont Cabinets <https://www.bellmontcabinets.com/>
- Bentons Kitchens <https://bentonskitchens.co.uk/>
- Best Home Fixer <https://besthomefixer.com/>
- In Color Balance <https://color.romanuke.com/>
- CountryLiving <https://www.countryliving.com/>
- Curated Interior <https://curatedinterior.com/>
- Dekton <https://www.dekton.com/usa/>
- Design Seeds <https://www.design-seeds.com/>
- Dura Supreme <https://www.durasupreme.com/>
- Dwell <https://www.dwell.com/>
- Flintstone <https://www.flintstonetops.com/>
- Garage Tool Advisor <https://www.garagetooladvisor.com/>
- Grande Interiors <https://www.grandeinteriors.com/>
- Hackrea <https://www.hackrea.com/>
- HGTV <https://www.hgtv.ca/> ; <https://www.hgtv.com/>
- Home edit <https://www.homedit.com/>
- Home Stories A to Z <https://www.homestoriesatoz.com/>
- House Beautiful <https://www.housebeautiful.com/>
- Houzz <https://www.houzz.com/>
- Ideal Home <https://www.idealhome.co.uk/>
- Marfa Cabinets <https://marfacabinets.com/>
- Medium <https://medium.com/>
- MortgageLoan.Com <https://www.mortgageloan.com/>
- Nobilia <https://www.nobilia.de/en/>
- Pinterest <https://www.pinterest.com/>
- Plain & Fancy Custom Cabinetry <https://plainfancycabinetry.com/>
- Remodelaholic <https://www remodelaholic.com/>
- Southern Living <https://www.southernliving.com/>
- The Sink Boutique <https://thesinkboutique.com/>
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- Unsplash <https://unsplash.com/>
- USA Marble & Granite <https://www.usamarbleandgranite.com/>
- Waypoint Living Spaces <https://www.waypointlivingspaces.com/>