

Kitchen Remodeling Checklist

Crafted by Better Remodels Experts with 25 Years of Experience

The kitchen is often the heart of the home—a place where functionality and style need to come together seamlessly. Whether you're updating your kitchen to increase value, enhance cooking functionality, or simply refresh its look, the process can be overwhelming without the right guidance. For over 25 years, Better Remodels has perfected the art of kitchen remodeling. This checklist will guide you through the entire remodeling process to ensure every detail is covered, from the initial planning stages to your final touches.



Planning & Budgeting

- **Set Your Goals:** What's driving your remodel? More counter space, modernized appliances, improved layout? Clarify your priorities.
- **Determine Your Budget:** Factor in all costs: labor, materials, appliances, and contingency for unexpected expenses. Consider getting multiple quotes for a balanced view.
- **Design Style:** Do you want a traditional, modern, farmhouse, or contemporary kitchen? Think about your overall home style and how your kitchen should align with it.
- **Choose Your Remodel Type:** Will this be a minor update or a full overhaul?
- **Research Contractors:** Look for contractors or design-build firms with experience in kitchen remodels. Ask for referrals and view past projects.



Design & Layout

- **Assess Your Current Layout:** Does your current kitchen flow well? Would an open-plan layout or a kitchen island improve functionality?
- **Work Triangle:** Ensure your layout maximizes efficiency between the three primary work zones—sink, stove, and refrigerator.
- **Storage Solutions:** Plan for cabinetry that offers sufficient storage. Consider pull-out shelves, deep drawers, pantry cabinets, and even custom-built solutions.
- **Lighting Plan:** Layer your lighting with ambient, task, and accent lighting to create a functional and inviting space.
- **Plumbing & Electrical Considerations:** If you're moving or installing new appliances, plan for any necessary plumbing and electrical upgrades.



Materials & Finishes Selection

- **Cabinetry:** Choose cabinets that fit your design style. Wood, MDF, and plywood are popular options. Decide between custom or semi-custom options based on your budget.
- **Countertops:** Choose from granite, quartz, marble, butcher block, or recycled materials. Keep in mind the durability, maintenance, and aesthetic appeal.
- **Backsplash:** Tile, glass, or stone backsplashes can make a bold statement while offering easy-to-clean surfaces.
- **Flooring:** Tile, hardwood, and luxury vinyl are durable and stylish options. Consider ease of maintenance and the wear-and-tear kitchen floors endure.



- **Appliances:** Select energy-efficient appliances. Look for ranges, dishwashers, refrigerators, and microwaves that complement your space and design.
- **Sink & Faucets:** Choose a sink that fits your needs (under-mount, farmhouse, or deep basin) and select a faucet that suits your style, like pull-down, touchless, or vintage.
- **Hardware & Accessories:** Handles, knobs, and pulls should reflect the overall kitchen design and complement your cabinetry.

Demolition & Preparation

- **Remove Existing Fixtures:** This includes old cabinets, countertops, and appliances. Consider donating or recycling items that are still in good condition.
- **Assess Structural Integrity:** Check for any underlying issues, such as water damage, mold, or faulty plumbing and electrical systems, that need to be addressed before proceeding.
- **Ventilation & Ductwork:** If necessary, upgrade your range hood or install additional ventilation to improve air quality, especially if you're cooking frequently.



Installation

- **Cabinet Installation:** Install your new cabinets first, ensuring they are securely anchored to walls and aligned properly. Custom cabinetry will require precise measurements and fitting.
- **Countertop Installation:** Once the cabinets are in place, countertops should be installed. Ensure that cuts for sinks and stoves are accurate.
- **Plumbing & Electrical Work:** Install any new plumbing fixtures, appliances, or lighting systems. If you've moved the sink, stove, or refrigerator, plumbing and electrical lines may need to be rerouted.
- **Appliance Installation:** Position and hook up new appliances, ensuring that they're properly connected to the water, gas, or electrical lines.
- **Backsplash Installation:** Tile or install your chosen backsplash, making sure to leave grout lines and create a seamless look.



Finishing Touches

- **Lighting Installation:** Install pendant lights, under-cabinet lighting, and task lighting to make the space bright and welcoming.
- **Seal Countertops:** If using natural stone, be sure to seal countertops to prevent staining and damage.
- **Grouting & Caulking:** Seal grout lines around the backsplash and caulk seams around sinks, countertops, and appliances to prevent water damage.
- **Hardware & Fixtures:** Install cabinet hardware (knobs, handles), faucets, and other final touches to complete the look.
- **Paint Touch-ups:** Ensure the trim and any exposed woodwork are properly painted and finished. Clean off any construction dust.



Final Inspection & Walkthrough

- **Test Appliances:** Turn on the stove, dishwasher, refrigerator, and any other installed appliances. Ensure they are working properly and efficiently.
- **Check Plumbing & Electrical:** Test the faucets, dishwasher, and any plumbing work to make sure there are no leaks. Check electrical outlets, lighting, and switches.
- **Cleaning:** A thorough cleaning is necessary to remove dust, debris, and construction materials from every corner of the kitchen.
- **Review Details:** Walk through the space to ensure everything is aligned, handles are installed correctly, and the space feels cohesive.
- **Warranty Check:** Confirm warranties for appliances, countertops, and cabinetry, and keep the documentation handy.



Enjoy Your New Kitchen!

- **Decorate:** Add personal touches like plants, artwork, or decorative bowls to make the kitchen feel like your own.
- **Ongoing Maintenance:** Regularly clean your kitchen surfaces, check for leaks, and maintain appliances to keep everything running smoothly. Consider investing in a kitchen cleaning schedule to preserve its beauty and functionality.



Pro Tip from Better Remodels Experts:

Function should always come before form in the kitchen. While it's tempting to choose trendy designs and colors, make sure that your choices are practical and durable. Prioritize the flow of the space and the ease of use, especially when choosing appliances, storage solutions, and countertops.

This Kitchen Remodeling Checklist will keep you on track and ensure your remodel is a success. Whether you're updating a few features or completely revamping your kitchen, Better Remodels is here to guide you through every step of the process, delivering a space that enhances both the look and functionality of your home.