

Kitchen Design & Planning Guide

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KITCHEN DESIGN

Remodeling your kitchen can be an exciting experience. It also can be overwhelming because there are so many decisions to be made and changes to make when planning your kitchen remodel. One decision is design. How do you know what the best way to layout your kitchen to be functional and efficient? One way is to write out your needs and desires. The following questions are designed to prompt you to find out exactly what your needs, desires and goals are to design and build your dream kitchen.

KITCHEN DESIGN QUESTIONS

What does my family use the kitchen for?

- Cooking
- Entertaining
- Computer
- Eating meals
- Homework
- Watching TV
- Gathering place
- Paying bills
- Laundry

Is there more than one cook?

Do I need multiple sinks?

What types of sink is best?

- Farm sink
- Single bowl
- Undermount sink
- Double bowl

How many people do we need to fit in the kitchen?

How much entertaining do we do?

What kind of island is best?

- Stationary island
- Rolling island
- Base cabinet with countertop
- Peninsula
- Table island with chairs
- Bar

Do I need appliances or accessories in the island?

- Sinks

- Cooking range
- Oven
- Dishwasher
- Storage
- Counter depth

What kind of cooking do I do?

- Bulk cooking & Freeze meals
- Gourmet meals
- Vegan meals
- Ethnic meals

What storage do I need?

What type of pantry do I need?

- Corner pantry
- Hidden pantry
- Slide out pantry
- Hanging pantry
- Moveable pantry
- Butler's pantry
- Built-in cabinets

What style of cabinets do I want?

- Shaker
- Distressed
- Custom
- Flat
- Beadboard
- Inset
- Thermofoil

What type of counter tops do I like?

- Quartz
- Limestone
- Porcelain

- Granite
- Marble
- Laminate

What type of flooring would work best for pets or children?

- Hardwood
- Luxury vinyl
- Vinyl
- Ceramic Tile
- Bamboo
- Laminate

What style of backsplash would accent best?

- Ceramic
- Slate
- Shells
- Glass
- Travertine
- Medallion
- Tile
- Mosaic
- Stone
- Marble

What type of lighting would help to illuminate the kitchen?

- Skylights
- Chandeliers
- Wall lights
- Pendants
- Track Lighting
- Undercounter lights
- Recessed lighting

Do I need places for pet dishes or cat litter boxes?

Do I need a place for recyclables?

Do I need a wine bar?

Do I want a window for growing plants?

Does anyone have any physical limitations?

What do I dislike about my current kitchen?

What do I like about my current kitchen?

What appliances do I need?

- Stove
- Oven
- Cooktop
- Dishwasher
- Microwave
- Refrigerator

What zones would make my kitchen more efficient?

- Food prep
- Baking
- Cleanup
- Beverage
- Dining
- Paper work
- Storage

What style of window would work best?

- Bay window
- Double hung
- Stationery

- Slider
- Picture window
- Bow
- Single hung
- Transom
- Casement

What style of door would work best?

- Bolding door
- French door
- Sliding glass door
- Pocket Door

What style of hardware would accent best?

- Cabinet knobs
- Cabinet pulls & handles
- Cabinet hinges
- Cabinet latches & catches

What type of ventilation would work?

- Hoods
- Downdraft

What kind of workspace do I need?

What kinds of faucets should I use?

- Pullout
- Two-handle with wall mount
- Single handle
- Water Filtered
- Two handles
- Pot filler

KITCHEN STYLES

The kitchen is truly the heart of every home. Today's kitchens are central to everyday living, often doing double duty as family room, offices and media center as well.

The following is a list of kitchen styles:

- Classical
- Retro
- Coastal
- Rustic
- Colonial
- Shaker
- Traditional
- Modern
- Farmhouse
- Cottage
- Formal
- Contemporary
- Industrial
- Mediterranean
- Country
- Transitional

It's important to know what style of kitchen you desire. Whether your designing your kitchen to match the décor of other rooms or planning your whole home look around the kitchen, you can make it a beautiful reflection of your personal style.



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COUNTER TOPS

TYPE	PROS	CONS
Engineered Quartz <i>man made from 90-95% quartz</i>	Impact resistant Scratch resistant Stain resistant	Not heat resistant Not eco friendly
Granite <i>natural stone with unique grains and color</i>	Durable Scratch resistant Stain resistant Impenetrable	Needs sealed yearly Cracks & chips
Laminate <i>thin finish adhered to plywood or particle board</i>	Inexpensive Maintenance free Available in many colors, patterns & finishes	Heat resistant <150° Can scratch or nick
Limestone <i>made of millions of years of bones and seashells from the ocean floor</i>	Durable Heat resistant Looks like marble	Needs sealed yearly Can scratch
Marble <i>a natural stone that looks luminous and elegant</i>	Durable Elegant look	Can stain Can scratch



KITCHEN TRENDS

Wood in multiple tones – a darker tone for the island and a lighter tone everywhere else.

Multi-purpose island – handy, functional, durable and beautiful. An island that is more functional can encompass food prep, cooking, cleanup, casual meals, homework, sociability and making crafts.

Matching counter top and backsplash – the counter top just extends up the wall.

USB ports – if you are always using your phones or tablets this could be a handy add on.

Darker colors – blues & navy is all the rage for kitchen island and walls.

Slate colored appliances – a bold new exciting color option for appliances that allow you to incorporate darker colors.

Barnboards and open shelves – a wide slatted, weathered material is a perfect way to introduce a wood element to your kitchen and shelving units.

Slimmer countertops – this European trend is making waves in the US. Instead of 1 ¼" thickness this counter top measures only ¾" thick. It is more attractive because it is not as heavy in appearance.

White on white kitchens – white appliances in a white kitchen is always on trend, plus white appliances are so much easier to keep clean than stainless, which smudges easily.



Touch-activated faucets – bursting out of the fad category into the kitchen must have column, these faucets are not only convenient but also can save you money on your water bill.

Transitional design – a cross between contemporary and traditional offers sleek and clean lines but with no fussy doodads.

Smaller appliances – micro living is taking off for millennials and retirees. Owners of multi-generational homes are installing tiny secondary kitchens for returning adult children and elderly parents.

LED Lighting – lights come in a rainbow of colors from bright to soft white, pale blue and grey plus they are energy efficient lasting 50,000 hours – five times longer than CFL.

TIPS FOR HIRING A HOME REMODELING CONTRACTOR

For most homeowners the hardest part of any home renovation project isn't the work itself, it is finding a competent and reliable home remodeler to do the job. There are steps you can take to find the right home remodeler.

QUESTIONS TO ASK HOME REMODELING CONTRACTORS

- How long have you been in business?
- How much liability insurance do you carry?
- Do you carry Worker's Compensation on all of your carpenters and laborers?
- Will I be getting Proof of Insurance?
- Are you a member in good standing with the Better Business Bureau?
- Do you use company paid employees to perform the work on my home or do you subcontract the work out?
- Do you have a company paid in-house design team or do you subcontract the design work out?

- Do you have a one stop full service kitchen and bath design center showroom or will I have to make many trips to different stores to pick out my selections?
- Do I receive a detailed bid from you or just a numerical price?
- Are you licensed with the state?
- Do you pull all of the necessary local and municipal permits?
- Will I receive a written contract with everything we agreed upon?
- Do you assign a specific Project Manager to my home remodel that is fully in charge of the project or do I get my information from just a carpenter?
- What is your process?

- How do we communicate with each other – email, phone, text or how?
- Do you give me a written warranty?
- Will you give me a list of references I can call?

RESEARCH HOME REMODELING CONTRACTORS

Check out each remodeler's:

- Online reviews
- Galleries of work
- Testimonials
- Awards
- Website
- Facebook page
- Houzz page
- Team page
- Showroom

QUESTIONS TO ASK REFERENCES

- Were they easy to work with?
- Were the employees respectful to your home?
- Do they communicate with you on a weekly basis as to how project was coming along?
- Did they keep job site clean?
- Were there any additional charges they did not make you aware of?
- Did you give them a five-star review?
- Would you use them again?

PRODUCT RESOURCE GUIDE

These are some of the manufacturers we use.

BACKSPLASH

- Daltile
- American Olean
- Interceramic
- Elements

CABINETS

- Wellborn

COUNTERTOPS

- Caesarstone
- Cambria
- Hahnstone

FAUCETS

- Kohler
- Moen
- Delta
- Blanco
- Pfister

REMODELING LINGO

If you are starting a home remodeling project and feel overwhelmed, below is a guide to all the jargon and lingo you need to know before you start.

Addition – any construction that increases a building's size by adding to its structure. For example, another room or an additional story,

Bid – an offer to perform a specified amount of work under certain conditions with cost estimates included.

Blueprints – mechanical drawings, prepared by an architect, that show precise detail of a building or space used during the planning and construction of a project.

Change Order – they are like addendums, except they are changes to the construction contract after work begins, it is an agreement between the owner and contractor to change the scope, price, schedule or similar term of the contract. Sometimes called "extras" or "add-ons."

Construction Contract – legally binding, formal agreement between two parties recorded in document form. It outlines each party's responsibilities, cost estimates, project timing and conditions for changing the contract.

Contractors – combine managing, planning and designing all in one. All stages of a large project, estimating costs, drawing plans and getting building permits.

Designers – designers use their creativity to plan the look and aesthetics of your project, the layout of a space, location of fixtures, fabric types and color schemes.

Draw Schedule – a schedule of payments usually included in the contract that describes at what points the customer will pay the contractor. May include a deposit, periodic payments for materials, work performed and of course a final payment.

Estimating – the process of determining the cost of a project, typically results in a ballpark cost estimate and usually occurs prior to signing a final contract.

Fixture – a term which is used to describe many items within the home, typically in bathrooms and kitchens. Examples include sinks, faucets, bathtubs, almost anything exterior to the wall.

Floor Area – the square footage of a building or space

Hearth – the floor area in front of a fireplace, or the actual floor of the fireplace. The hearth is usually constructed of brick, stone or cement.

HVAC – Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning, all appliances of the system to condition the air within the home.

Insulation – material used to prevent heat loss in a structure; is usually placed within ceilings, and walls and sometimes floors. Quality home insulation can help to reduce heating or electricity bills.

Jamb – the molding around a window frame. The "side jamb" is vertical while the "head jamb" is horizontal.

Joint – any piece where two building materials come together and leave a gap or space.

Joist – parallel framing members installed horizontally to carry floor and ceiling loads.

Miter – a 45 degree cut, unlike a compound miter cut, the saw blade remains at 0 degrees.

Remodel – renovations are a facelift, a remodel would be considered plastic surgery for your home, transforming the structure and style of a space; changing the floor plan or layout of a room. For example, creating an open layout by removing a wall in your formal dining room to connect the kitchen would be considered a remodeling job. Adding an island counter top to your kitchen floor plan would also be a remodel.

Renovation – a facelift for your home. Common home renovations are replacing light fixtures, repainting, changing out cabinet hardware, installing new appliances, countertops and other similar project. No major plans to the room's layout are made, instead features of that room are updated to give the room a fresh new look.

Sconce – a light fixture attached to a wall.

Shim – a thin piece of wood used during installation to ensure that countertops are level.

Subfloor – boards or plywood mounted over joists on which the finish floor is laid.

Substrate – any surface to which a paint, stain or sealant is applied.

Tongue and Groove – a way of connecting materials, such as wood, in which the tongue of a board is placed into the groove of the other board.

Vanity – a storage cabinet for bathrooms that sits under the sink/counter.

Vessel – a style of sink that is not fully installed into the counter. It sits partially above the counter. This type of basin is often glass or porcelain and can be very colorful.

Walkthrough – the Designer, Project Manager Contractor and/or Subcontractors meet at the project site to evaluate the project and scope of work.



About Pittsburgh's Best Remodeling

Your Kitchen, Bathroom or Basement Remodel should reflect your personality and lifestyle. Through our knowledgeable and creative design team, skilled craftsman, competent Project Manager and One Stop Shop Design Center Showroom we can help you turn your unique vision for your home into a reality.

We specialize in:

- Home Design Consultation
- Kitchen Remodeling
- Bathroom Remodeling
- Basement Remodeling
- Home Additions
- Flooring

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